



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## City May Allow Three More Restaurants on 24th Street

By Liz Highleyman

The promise of new restaurants on 24th Street took another step toward reality last month, when District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty introduced before the Board of Supervisors a small tweak to the zoning rules governing Noe Valley's main commercial strip.

The legislation—drafted over the summer by Dufty's office with input from the Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association—would allow three new full-service restaurants or cafes to open on 24th Street within the next five years.

"I think it's a great compromise," says Merchants Association President Carol Yenine. "It works for people who want more restaurants, and it doesn't open the door for Taco Bell."

The proposed amendment to the zoning code—the first in nearly 20 years—loosens a moratorium barring new restaurants, fast-food outlets, coffee shops, and bars along 24th Street between Diamond and Chattanooga streets. Under the current rules, a new eating establishment may

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## The Longest Running Football Game in Noe

By Bob Oaks

On Thanksgiving Day, a Noe Valley tradition will once more take place on the grounds of Alvarado School: Two rival teams will compete for a duck in the 59th annual A-Bowl touch football game. It's not a real duck, of course, no more than the Stanford Axe is a real axe, but



**24th Street Makes Hay:** The fog dissolved into bright sunshine on the morning of the Noe Valley Harvest Festival, filling 24th Street with throngs of holiday shoppers, art buyers and music fans, parents toting pumpkins, toddlers dressed like ladybugs, and dogs wearing Superman capes. To look for your face in the crowd, see page 21. Photo by Pamela Gerard

the rivalry is equally intense.

The tradition began in 1947, when book pages working in the old Main Library across from City Hall sought an acceptable outlet for the teenage energy that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



**Noe Valley's Own Bowl Game:** In 1968, when this photo was taken, the "A-Bowl" game at Alvarado School had already been an annual Thanksgiving event for more than 20 years.

## De Young Museum Hangs 15 Sculptures by Ruth Asawa

By Corrie M. Anders

The M.H. de Young Museum paid the ultimate compliment to Ruth Asawa, a renowned sculptor and longtime Noe Valley resident, when it reopened last month in Golden Gate Park.

The museum graced its new home with 15 of Asawa's hanging wire sculptures—and placed them in a prominent location that will be hard for the public to miss.

Her three-dimensional works are the first thing visitors see at the entrance to the nine-story asymmetrical tower that leads to an observation deck. The tower also serves as an education center for the museum.

Although age and lingering illness have slowed the Castro Street artist, who will turn 80 years old in January, she is still very much involved in her work. She spent the past two years culling her impressive portfolio to choose the works she wanted to donate to the museum's permanent collection. "She picked the pieces [and] I worked with her on it," her daughter, Aiko Cuneo, said of the retrospective. "She said these were the ones that were historically significant."

The 15 delicate works span 50 years. They are made of copper, brass, or Montel wire, and are either hand-tied or hand-woven into crocheted sculptures. All are suspended from the ceiling in the small gallery at the bottom of the tower.

Cuneo said her mother was delighted that her pioneering works were now "in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Beekeeper Philip Gerrie—He's Not in It For the Honey

By Lorraine Sanders

You might think that being an apiarist—a beekeeper, in layman's terms—would go hand in hand with a love, or at least a strong affection, for honey. But you'd be wrong.

For Noe Valley beekeeper Philip Gerrie, the golden, viscous substance drawn from his four hives is something he rarely consumes. "Anything more than just a tiny bit, and my throat will seize up," Gerrie, 53, explains.

Despite his allergic reaction to honey, Gerrie has around 100 pounds of the stuff sitting in a lofted work area inside the 26th Street home where he lives with his wife, Andrea, and cats Georgio and Fiona. He sells the honey under the label Noe Valley Apiaries, to neighbors, friends, family, and a few local stores. It's a very casual operation. Regular fans of his honey often call when they're nearby,



**It's the Bees He Likes:** Philip Gerrie enjoys pouring honey for others, but because of an allergy, he can't indulge in the sweet substance himself. Photo by Pamela Gerard

and Gerrie pops out of his house to meet them in the street with a jar.

But just as honey does not drive Gerrie's interest in beekeeping, neither do the rewards of selling it. For Gerrie, a postal worker and current president of the San Francisco Beekeepers Association, the fascination has much more to do with the bees and the many challenges they present than their sweet byproduct.

Ten years ago, Gerrie, an avid gardener who'd lived in his Noe Valley home since 1981, noticed fewer and fewer bees flitting through the terraced and heavily planted area behind his house. After do-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





The St. Paul's Youth Choir. Led by Laura and Victor Flaviani these youngsters sang at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, Oct. 1, for the Blessing of the Pets ceremony. The event also featured dancers Trisha Lam and Erin Callahan, both seniors at Mercy High School. Photo courtesy of Michele Bulen



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## For The Turkey

- ☐ Roasting pans
- ☐ Kitchen twine
- ☐ Turkey lacers
- ☐ Oven thermometers
- ☐ Meat thermometers
- ☐ Fridge thermometers
- ☐ Cheesecloth
- ☐ Stuffing bags
- ☐ Carving knives
- ☐ Electric carving knife
- ☐ Fat separators
- ☐ Basters
- ☐ Turkey lifters
- ☐ Carving boards in maple & bamboo
- ☐ Poultry shears & Kitchen scissors
- ☐ Turkey frills
- ☐ Basting brushes
- ☐ Flavor injectors
- ☐ Roasting racks
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Sauce reduction pans

## Soup

- ☐ Stock pots
- ☐ Ladles
- ☐ Spice bags
- ☐ Immersion blenders
- ☐ Stand blenders
- ☐ Cutting boards
- ☐ Chopping knives
- ☐ Wooden spoons

## Knives

- ☐ Wusthof
- ☐ Messermeister
- ☐ Henckels
- ☐ Shun
- ☐ Global

## More Cookin'

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- ☐ All-Clad & Swiss Diamond pots & pans
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- ☐ Egg slicers
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- ☐ Food processors
- ☐ Garlic presses
- ☐ Mandolines
- ☐ Peelers
- ☐ Graters (Microplane!)
- ☐ Ceramic & porcelain baking dishes
- ☐ Salts & peppers
- ☐ Spices
- ☐ Olive oils (Stonehouse!)
- ☐ Vinegars (Round Pond!)
- ☐ Mortars and pestles

## Wine & Cheese

- ☐ Wine glasses & decanters by Riedel & Spiegelau
- ☐ Slate cheese trays
- ☐ Bamboo serving boards
- ☐ Wine openers (The Rabbit!)
- ☐ Cocktail shakers
- ☐ French leaves
- ☐ Lace doilies

## Pies, Cakes & Desserts

- ☐ Pie dishes (Emile Henry!)
- ☐ Silpat, Roul'pat
- ☐ Parchment paper & rounds
- ☐ Round, square & rectangular cake pans
- ☐ Bundt pans (18 shapes!)
- ☐ Silicone bakeware
- ☐ Cupcake pans & papers
- ☐ Decorating bags & tips
- ☐ Icing spatulas
- ☐ Food coloring
- ☐ Colored sugars & sprinkles
- ☐ Springform pans
- ☐ Flour sifters
- ☐ Rolling pins
- ☐ Pastry blenders
- ☐ Tart dishes
- ☐ Loaf pans
- ☐ Mixing bowls
- ☐ Spatulas
- ☐ Whisks
- ☐ Ramekins
- ☐ Nielsen-Massey Vanillas
- ☐ Baking chocolates
- ☐ Cocoa powder
- ☐ Cake stands
- ☐ Candy thermometers
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Cooling racks
- ☐ Cake rounds
- ☐ Cookie cutters (tons!)
- ☐ Measuring cups & spoons
- ☐ Dark brown sugars
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- ☐ Sugar cubes
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- ☐ Grapefruit spoons
- ☐ Omelet pans
- ☐ Maple syrup
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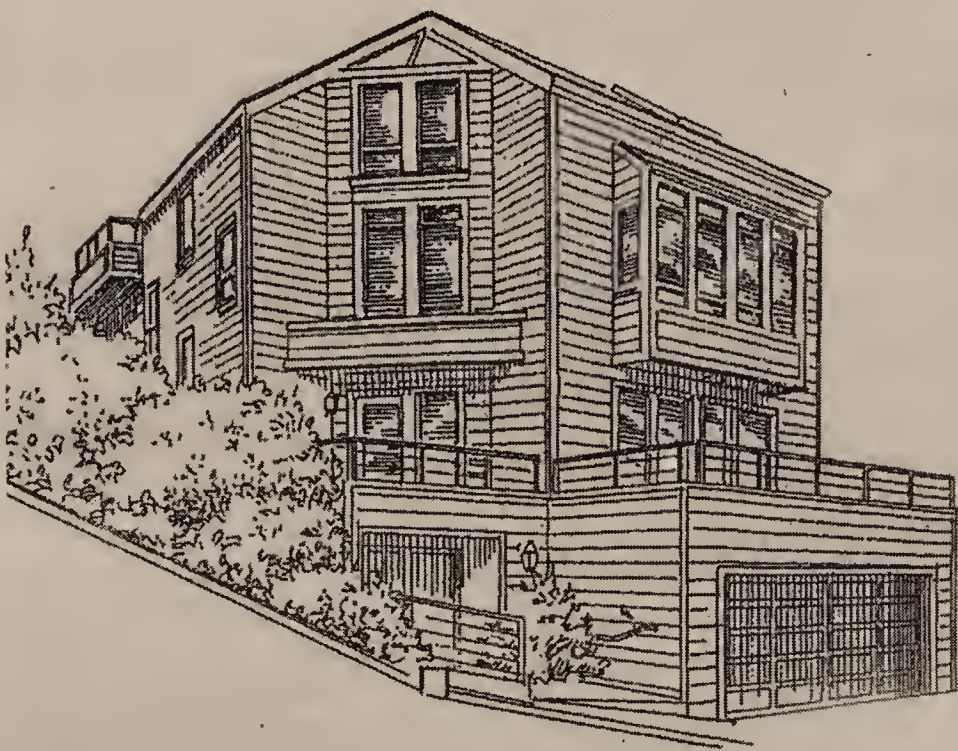
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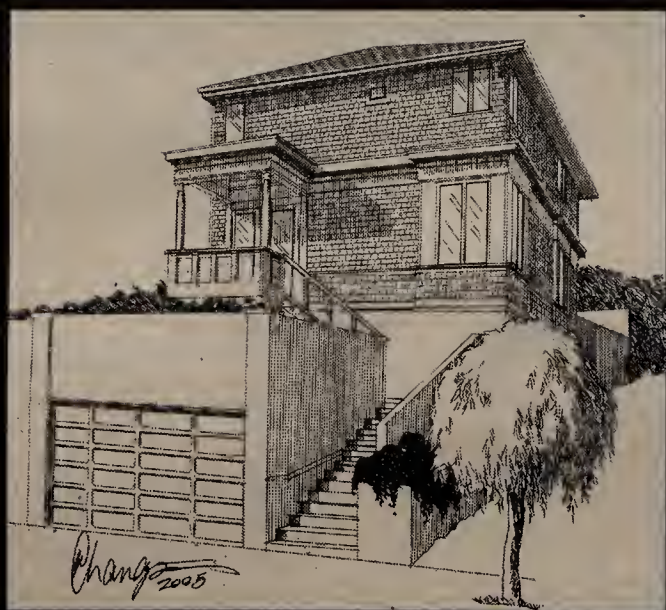
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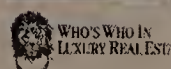
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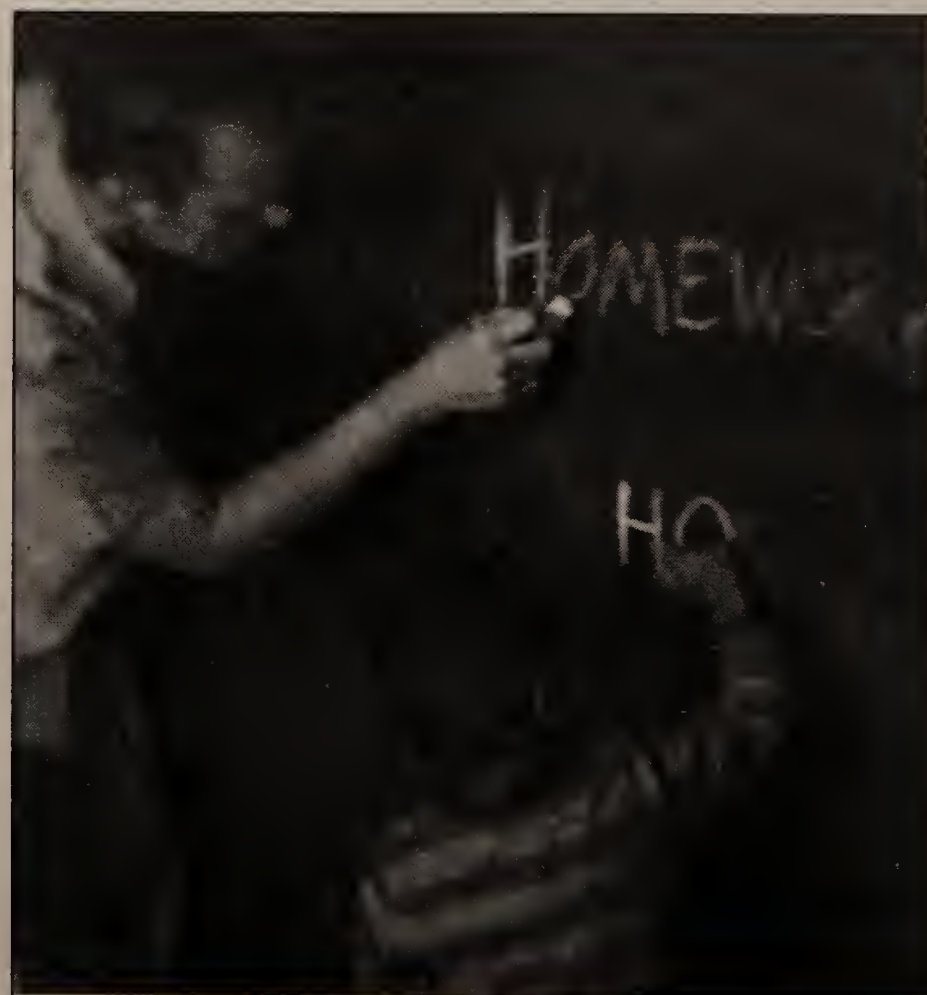
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## LETTERS 37¢

### No Turnover at Diagonal Row

Editor:

The other day, I was planning to transact some business on Castro between 24th and 25th streets. I was hoping that the new diagonal parking between Jersey and 25th streets would make parking easier. Since I am handicapped, this is most important to me.

I found out that the parking situation has not changed at all. It seems that the extra spaces are taken up by residents or the business owners—with no turnover.

The question arises, why are we doing this? I was led to believe that transacting business in the area would become easier.

Ellen Benjamin  
 26th Street

### A Crash Waiting to Happen

Editor:

Who do you contact regarding a traffic problem? I can't locate the helpful information you ran in the *Voice* about local government contact numbers. Would you please let me know how to contact my supervisor and the Traffic Department?

The problem is with the new timing of the lights on eastbound Market Street at Clayton (for the left turn lane). The time between changes is so long that traffic is now backed up every morning at all times to above Short Street and often all the way to Romain. There is a partly blind curve there and someone trying to make it past the traffic light at Romain is going to plow into a stopped car because the driver is stuck in a long backup while waiting to turn onto Clayton.

This change occurred in mid- to late-September. The changed timing of the

traffic signal may have been an error related to the very nice repaving that was done to the parallel westbound lanes of Market during the summer. (It is an area where a spring in the hillside was constantly leaking water onto the roadway, and the pavement was badly broken up.)

Thanks, as ever, for your wonderful neighborhood news publication. I find it useful and very informative.

Barbara Epremian  
 25th Street and Grand View

*Editor's Reply: The traffic signal repair number at DPT is 550-2736. Supervisor Bevan Dufty's number is 554-6968. And for other numbers, see our "Who to Call at City Hall" box on page 18.*

### Jesse's Positive Spirit

Editor:

I am Terry of "Terry and Leapin' Lizzie," whose letter to Jesse Zele was quoted in the story about him in your October 2005 issue. I would like to clarify two things:

First, I told the story of Jesse receiving crutches from a friend, not to describe an act of generosity, but to celebrate Jesse's amazing response—"Aren't I lucky?" As someone who bemoans all the tiny physical losses of encroaching age, I am awed by the strength of Jesse's spirit. He wasted no time on the negative. He was a role model for me.

Second, my letter was misquoted. He did not say "ain't" but "aren't," as described above. Jesse spoke perfectly correct English.

Terry Baum  
 Douglass Street

### Jessie

From a bench  
 he stares  
 at the street  
 in a funk. But let  
 a buck  
 drop in his cup  
 or a warm word  
 and his grin  
 could grow  
 things.

And skirted  
 women and  
 suited  
 men  
 and working  
 stiffs sit  
 by him  
 as if  
 an island  
 in their  
 sea of  
 tensions.

And he listens,  
 listens,  
 nodding.  
 But then says things  
 that echo when  
 forgotten.

We agree we  
 love him.  
 But does he  
 love  
 it

when we  
 use him as  
 a shrink  
 for a buck  
 or the Dad  
 we left in  
 Salt Lake  
 at whose grave  
 we'll weep,  
 but not  
 his?

Does he  
 see  
 in that stretch  
 of street,  
 us?  
 Or that  
 beach  
 he once  
 said he saw  
 from a ship  
 with the sea  
 beating, demanding  
 nothing  
 more  
 than wordless  
 awe?

—Daniel Richman

Twenty-first Street resident Daniel Richman will read "Jessie" and other poems appearing in his newly published book, *Farming in San Francisco*, at Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street, on Friday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.

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## The Closing of Open Door Yoga

I'm both saddened and disheartened to learn that Open Door Yoga will close its doors at the end of November. Why is it closing? The property owner won the condo lottery and will condo-ize the building. The attractive entrance to Open Door Yoga will become a garage.

This doesn't seem fitting for this beautiful community space, which Open Door owner Lizzie Nichols worked so hard to create. Several years ago, when Yoga Shala suddenly closed its doors in this spot, leaving yoga teachers and students to scramble for a place to hold classes, all breathed a sigh of relief when Lizzie stepped into the space and opened Open Door Yoga. Then, we held our breaths again when the building was sold, and were elated when Lizzie was able to negotiate a lease and remain at the corner of 25th and Sanchez.

Each time an individual business is forced to exit Noe Valley due to skyrocketing rents, I feel a twinge of sadness. But I feel more than personal sadness with the loss of Open Door Yoga. I feel a deep sorrow for our community and regret that the years of fostering a sacred, delightful space, where joy and laughter reigned and hundreds of people thrived, will fall to the bulldozer.

In the early to mid-1990s, Noe Valley had four places to take yoga classes, including Integral Yoga Center on Dolores Street—five if you count the Noe Valley Ministry. When Open Door Yoga closes, there will be one yoga studio, Sanchez Street Studio, a small but sweet space that, luckily, is owned by Pilates and yoga instructor Carol LeMaitre.

I do not teach yoga at Open Door Yoga, but I have in the past. I remember the first yoga class I taught, when Open Door first opened. It was a beginning yoga class and it was large. I was surprised that so many from Noe Valley were new to yoga. Most wanted a way to reduce stress in their lives, some simply desired more flexibility, and others were curious about yoga.

When I wanted to teach a class for seniors—and after being told by other places that seniors weren't really moneymakers—Lizzie welcomed the idea, adding that there were so many seniors in Noe Valley who weren't being served.

People have come from all parts of the United States, and most recently India, to offer classes and workshops at Open Door Yoga. There have been classes for women with breast cancer, for children, for pregnant women, for seniors, for those who meditate, and for folks who just need a break from the rat race. Open Door also employed many yoga teachers from different traditions. Like so many other people, I am forever grateful that I walked through Open Door Yoga's door.

What has always made Open Door Yoga so special is not the enormous sun-filled space to practice and teach yoga, nor the quiet relaxed waiting room with cushioned seats, nor the bowl of water for the occasional dog that wandered in, nor the spontaneous laughter that often erupted, but Lizzie.

You've heard of *karma* yoga and *bhakti* yoga? These two types of yoga are often thought of as two sides of the same coin. *Karma* means "right" action. Those who enjoy helping others without expecting anything in return practice *karma* yoga. *Bhakti* is giving to others in a selfless way with a great deal of attentiveness and open heart. Lizzie Nichols is the embodiment of both *karma* and *bhakti* yoga, and this planet and community are a richer place because of her.

We can crow all we want about what a great corner of San Francisco Noe Valley is. Like many of you, I choose to live here for the diversity and accessibility of small businesses. However, both come and go more frequently than I'd like to see. Many may applaud another overpriced condo for sale, but others will, like me, lament the loss of another community space. When Open Door Yoga takes down its last tattered prayer flag gracing the front entrance, we might all take a moment to look around and reflect on what our community means to us.

—Stephanie Levin  
steffe@mindspring.com

## LETTERS 37¢



Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa sent the Voice this sketch, one of several she made of Jesse Zele in 1998. As reported in the October issue, Zele died on Sept. 6 at the age of 60. Friends and neighbors paid him tribute by placing flowers, candles, and notes on the 24th Street bench where Zele often sat.

### A Sculpture Memorial

Editor:

I, like so many others, was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Jesse Zele's death [October 2005 Voice]. The magnitude of his impact on our lives was evidenced by the ever-growing spontaneous memorial at his bench on 24th Street.

I was wondering if anyone had thought of creating a life-size sculpture of Jesse, to be mounted on the bench. It could serve as a reminder to passersby that we take so much for granted and then are left to grieve over missed opportunities to connect.

As a bronze sculptor, although not a portrait specialist, I would be interested in creating, or helping to create, a memorial portrait of Jesse. I would also be willing to contact a foundry that might subsidize the cost of casting and finishing the piece. (There are several in the Bay Area that I have used in the past.)

If anyone is interested in this idea, contact me at [cmwarn@earthlink.net](mailto:cmwarn@earthlink.net).

Carole Warner

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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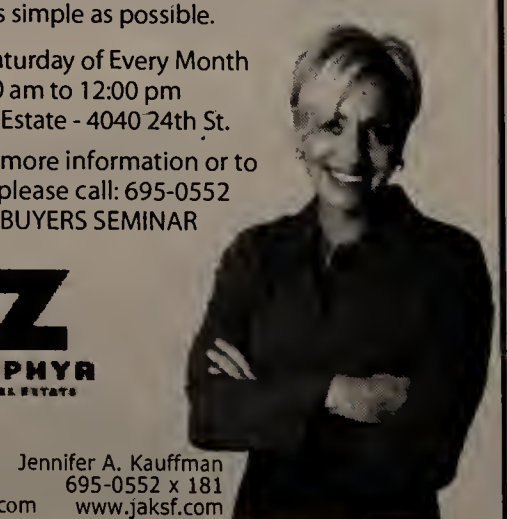
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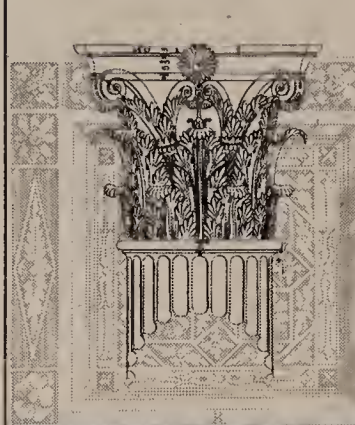
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## Library Still Open for Final Farewells

By Laura McHale Holland

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, scheduled to shut down in the near future for \$4.2 million worth of seismic renovations and improvements, is still open for now.

"We're up in the air about closing because we want to keep the library open as long as possible, rather than set a date now and possibly end up with the library sitting empty for weeks before renovations begin," says Children's Librarian Carol Small, the Noe Valley Library's acting manager.

Contractors had until Oct. 26 to submit bids to renovate the 89-year-old building at 451 Jersey Street. City officials next must analyze the bids and select a contractor before the library closes for the estimated two-year project.

Small says details about the closing, as well as a date for the farewell party, will be posted at the library as soon as they're known. The earliest the closing could be would be late November.

Meanwhile, she suggests that loyal patrons, as well as new visitors, take this opportunity to come by and enjoy the ambience of the old library, built in 1916 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

"One of my favorite things is the central stairway with marble on both sides. It's quite nice," says Small, who's worked at the branch for 15 years. She also points out the elaborate ornamental woodwork on the library's ceiling.

"The [renovation] architects are preservationists, and thankfully a lot of the beautiful historic details of the building will be retained," she notes.

This might be a reader's last chance to sit and relax on the library's comfortable couch, however, since after the retrofit

most of the furnishings will be new (and funded by local residents).

During the renovation, Small or other Noe Valley staff will conduct Noe Valley's children's programs at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. They'll also bring books to the neighborhood via a library bookmobile. (The bookmobile will be parked on Elizabeth Street near Diamond two mornings a week.)

But for now, the books are still on the shelves and the programs will continue as scheduled at the Noe Valley branch. This month, preschool story time, for kids 2 to 5, will be held on Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 8, and 29, at 10 a.m. Parents can bring their infants and toddlers to the library's lapsit program on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 10:30 a.m. Children's films will be shown at both 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call the branch at 355-5707 for updates. □

### SUBMISSIONS

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE invites you to submit stories, poems, and essays for possible publication. We are particularly interested in fiction and creative nonfiction for the **Last Page**. Last Page submissions should be under 1,500 words. E-mail to [lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com) or send manuscripts to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you would like your manuscript returned. Thank you.

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## City May Add Three to 24th St. Restaurant Quota

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

open only after an existing one closes.

Neighborhood resident and business owner Joanie Basso-Ginsberg, who operates PastaGina, a prepared food and specialty grocery shop on Diamond Street, favors the change and would love to expand and move to Noe Valley's Main Street. "We figure we'd have four to five times the amount of walk-by traffic on 24th Street," she told the *Voice*. "Now [at the Diamond Street location], people have to know we're here and come to us. Walk-by traffic makes a huge difference."

### Appetites Grow in '90s

The moratorium was imposed in 1987 in response to fears that Noe Valley was becoming a magnet for chi-chi restaurants and bars that would push up rents and attract patrons from all over the city, thereby cutting into basic services and, of course, parking.

But as the character and demographics of Noe Valley shifted over the next two decades, more and more residents began expressing their desire for an expanded range of local dining options.

An informal poll by the *Noe Valley Voice* last spring revealed a desire for high-quality takeout food, a wider variety of ethnic choices, cafes conducive to working, and more upscale sit-down restaurants—the last confirmed by the overwhelming popularity of the recently opened Fresca.

After a member survey in 2004 showed a strong appetite for more eateries, the Friends of Noe Valley formed a subcommittee to explore the issue and approached Dufty's office for help. The city's Planning Department drafted an amendment this past March, and after neighborhood input was incorporated, the proposed final version went before the supervisors on Oct. 11.

"This has really been a neighborhood-driven effort," said Boe Hayward, an aide to Supervisor Dufty.

### New Rules a Compromise

Yenne told the *Voice* that the amendment "walks the line" between neighbors who wish to keep the old restrictions, and residents and merchants who don't think there should be any limits at all.

"Three restaurants in five years that don't interfere with essential services is as good as it gets," agreed Friends member and past president Debra Niemann, who also championed the ordinance. "It's best to modify things slowly and carefully."

To allay worries about 24th Street becoming the next Union Street, the ordinance states that new restaurants may not take over a space that is currently home to a "basic neighborhood service," such as a hardware store, shoe repair facility, bookstore, or grocery store.

The proposal also allows new eateries to apply for a liquor license, as long as the bar is to be "operated as an integral element" of a bona fide full-service restaurant. Currently, only Fresca holds a full liquor license, though many other Noe Valley restaurants have permits to serve beer and wine.

"People don't want more bars, they want more restaurants," said Yenne. "But part of what makes a restaurant succeed is the opportunity to have a drink in a nice sit-down establishment."

### A Nine-Course Planning Process

Don't start licking your chops just yet.

According to Hayward, the ordinance must undergo a 30-day hold period, after which it will be sent to the Planning Commission. City Planner Dan Sider said his department has 90 days, once it receives the bill, to issue a positive or negative recommendation. During that time, the proposal will undergo environmental review and at least one community hearing. After Planning makes its recommendation, the proposal will go to the supervisors' Land Use Committee (made up of Sophie Maxwell, Jake McGoldrick, and Gerardo Sandoval). Finally, it must be voted on and passed by the full Board of Supervisors at two consecutive meetings, and then signed by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The public will have several opportunities to offer comments on the measure, Hayward said, at hearings before the Planning Commission, the Land Use Committee, and the full board.

Sider estimated that the Planning hearing would take place in December or January.

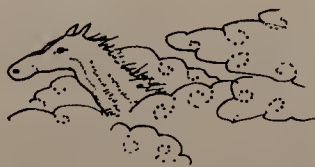
### Where Will New Cafes Go?

Even if the ordinance passes, aspiring restaurateurs will face a big hurdle: the shortage of available space.

Both Yenne and Niemann said they have heard expressions of interest over the years, but most of the few unused storefronts along 24th Street are too small to accommodate a full-service eatery, especially considering the expense of outfitting a building with a commercial kitchen from scratch.

A possible exception is the Real Food Company grocery store at the heart of the commercial strip, which has stood empty for more than two years. As reported in last month's *Voice*, the owners of the property, Jane and Kimball Allen, and Real Food's parent company, Nutraceutical, are currently engaged in a legal battle over who will pay for extensive renovations to the space.

"There's nothing right now on the street that's available and appropriate," said Yenne. "It's a matter of waiting for the right space to become available that would work. But once word is out that you can do it [open a new restaurant], someone will." □



## Ruth Asawa's Wire Sculptures on Display in De Young

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a museum collection that would stay together. Anyone who wanted to study her pieces could go to the museum. It's great [the museum] is in San Francisco, where she has made her home for so many years."

Responding to questions passed through her daughter, Asawa told the *Voice* she was impressed with the new de Young, whose predecessor was severely damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The new facility has double the space, and its many galleries house everything from 20th-century and contemporary art to African and Egyptian art to photography.

"It feels like a museum," said Asawa. "It has more space, which allows them to show a lot more work. It takes at least two visits to see everything."

The exhibition of her works in the permanent de Young collection, when coupled with her many other museum shows and public monuments, is a remarkable legacy for Asawa, a Japanese American who as a youth worked with her immigrant parents in the agricultural fields of southern California. During World War II, she and her mother and brothers and sisters were shipped off to an internment camp in Rohwer, Ark. After the war, Asawa pursued her artistic calling at the experimental Black Mountain College in North Carolina.

Asawa and her husband, architect Albert Lanier, moved to Noe Valley in 1960 and have long been involved in neighborhood affairs. In the late 1960s, Asawa



Artist Ruth Asawa and daughter Aiko Cuneo pose before two of Asawa's 15 sculptures now hanging in the de Young.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

and art historian Sally Woodbridge co-founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop at Alvarado Elementary School. The workshop became a model for arts programs at 50 other San Francisco schools.

Asawa's body of work, which includes bronze statues, clay sculptures, paintings, and drawings, can be viewed throughout the Bay Area and California. Notable pieces include the "mermaid fountain" at Ghirardelli Square (1966), the origami-inspired *Aurora* fountain at Bayside Plaza (1986)—both in San Francisco—and the cast-bronze Japanese-American Internment Memorial Sculpture in San Jose (1994).

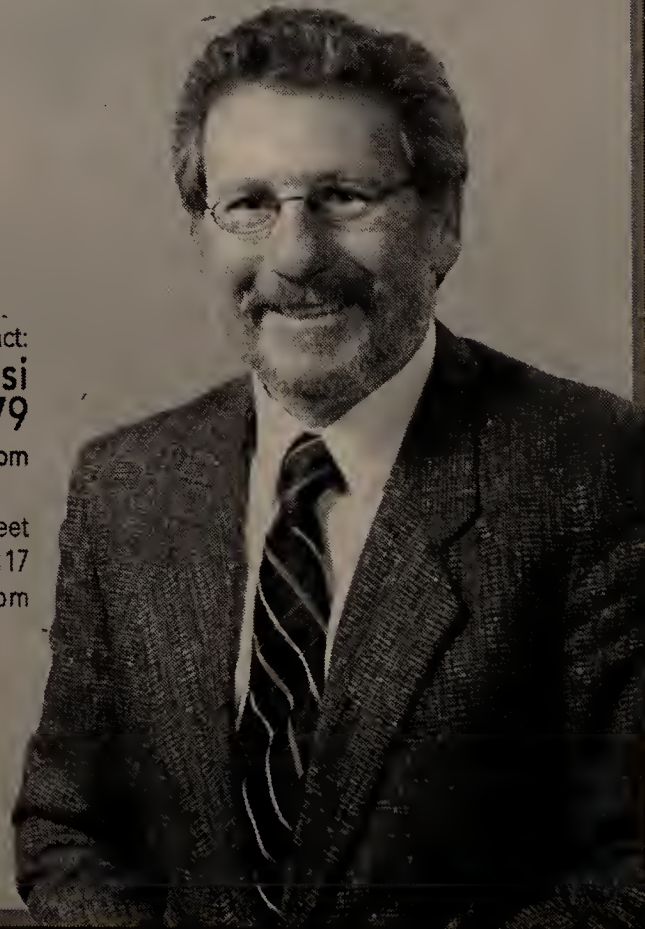
A collection of Asawa's sculptures and drawings will be on display at the Rena Bransten Gallery in downtown San Francisco, from Dec. 1 through the middle of January. □



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## Local Gardener Stung by the Joys Of Beekeeping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing some research, Gerrie discovered that a species of mite had attacked and killed a large portion of the local bee population. Gerrie knew that bees are essential for plant pollination, and became interested in keeping a colony instead of waiting for them to arrive of their own accord.

"Without [bees], we don't have the food that we eat. The bees pollinate all kinds of fruits and vegetables that we eat. A lot of beekeepers just bring enough bees to pollinate their crops," says Gerrie.

Although he became interested in beekeeping years earlier, it wasn't until four years ago that he built his hives, which now house around 100,000 honeybees. Many of Gerrie's bees come from folks who've enlisted his bee-removal services.

Sitting in a row underneath a shady tree and emitting a steady humming sound, each hive is comprised of several wooden crates stacked on top of one another. Each crate or section can be removed to allow Gerrie to inspect the hive's interior. Inside each box, closely spaced wooden frames hang like files in a file cabinet. The frames hold the bees' honey and the eggs laid by the queen. (There's just one queen per hive.)

To open the hives, Gerrie dons a beekeeper's veil and uses a small smoker to pump smoke from burning pine needles into the crates. The smoke distracts the bees and makes them less likely to sting.

The trick to opening a bee hive, Gerrie explains, is moving slowly. Very slowly. Gerrie certainly has the touch. His practiced fingers gingerly pull frames from each hive while the bees continue about their business. But no matter how careful the beekeeper, stings are part of the territory.

"It is recommended that you get stung fairly consistently to build up an immunity. I certainly don't intend to do it," he says. Despite that, Gerrie endures stings "all the time."

But then, the potential for stings, as well as unruly swarms, is part of the appeal.

"[Beekeeping] has sort of a cowboy thing to it," he explains. "They're dangerous creatures if not treated properly."

Bees also exhibit complex social and communication patterns that make them endlessly interesting to watch.

"There's always something new to observe," Gerrie says.

On a warm and sunny afternoon in Oc-



Though he's had his share of bee stings, Philip Gerrie remains fascinated by the honeybees that buzz through his four backyard hives and help pollinate the flowers and fruit trees in our neighborhood.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

tober, it was easy to see soap-operatic drama engulfing Gerrie's bees. While many worker bees took flight in search of nectar from Noe Valley flowers, others were struggling in twos and threes to pull slightly larger, darker bees from the opening of the hives. Once a cluster of worker bees had successfully moved a victim outside the safety of the hive, they would drop the unwelcome bee right onto the ground and leave him there. If the evicted bee tried to return home, the workers would fight him off at the entrance.

It may sound harsh, but as Gerrie explains, it's nature's way. The ousted bees are male drones, whose main purpose is to fertilize the queen bee. The aggressors are worker bees, females who tirelessly hunt for nectar sources.

"They don't do anything for the hive," Gerrie says of the drones. "All they do is eat. It's the women who do all the work."

Once the drones have fattened up and done their duty, the busy females send them packing. Another striking bee habit is the "waggle dance," a funny-looking movement worker bees make with their abdomens once they've found a new blossom or plant rich with nectar, such as a fragrant rosemary shrub. Just by watch-

ing the waggle dance, other bees will know where the nectar lies. There are also nurse bees who are workers that remain inside the hive to tend larvae that hatch from the queen's eggs.

Given Gerrie's affinity for these highly social, complicated creatures, it's not surprising that the social side of beekeeping itself is one of his favorite parts of the hobby. Like the bees they keep, beekeepers are quite the tightknit community. They meet on the second Tuesday of each

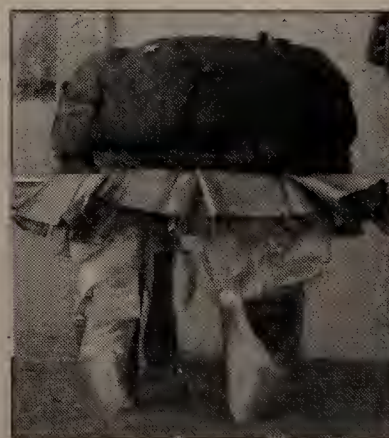
month at the Randall Museum, but Gerrie estimates he talks with or e-mails other beekeepers on a daily basis.

Says Gerrie: "It's old-fashioned. It's very social. We exchange information. That's what farmers did when they'd get together at the corner store. That's what we do." □

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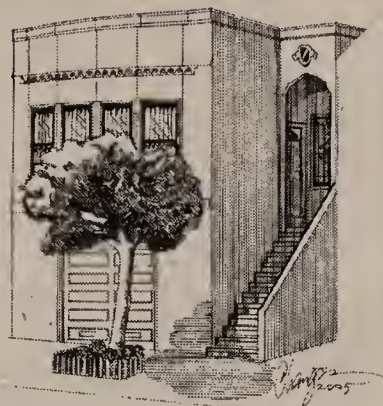
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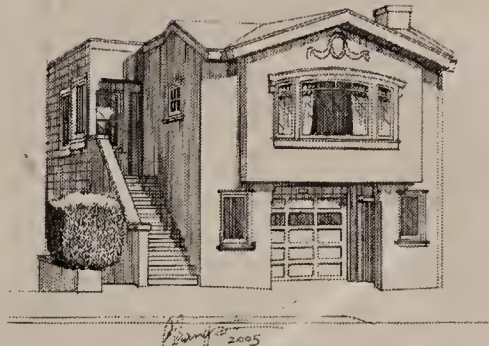
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## Football Rivalry Goes Back Nearly 60 Years

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

threatened to get them fired (and sometimes did) from their jobs. Library supervisors tended to take a dim view of beer drinking in the stacks, firecrackers in the Main Reading Room, and pages suspending themselves from window-washers' belts.

Two of the leaders of this rowdy bunch, Lou Barberini and Jack Goodwin (whose father was city treasurer), organized their fellow pages into two football teams for a game on Thanksgiving Day 1947. They named their teams the Three-A's and the Red-A's, the "A" referring to a portion of the lower anatomy. (Barberini notes that back in the '40s, big-league sports players routinely used the phrase "Red A--" to describe a really tough guy.) The boys chose the playground at Alvarado School for their match because it was a convenient central location for players who lived in different neighborhoods.

In the first game, Goodwin's three-man Red-A's beat Barberini's four-man Three-A's by a score of 35 to 25. (No, the Three-A's didn't have an advantage: Only three team members could play at any one time.) The other founding members of the Three-A's were Jerry King, Joe Speer, and Bud Mitchell. Bill Keating and Bob Gibson rounded out the Red-A's team.

Before long, the Thanksgiving Day ritual took hold, making the turkey a secondary event in the lives of our gridiron

heroes. Each team developed a fight song, sharing the tune of Yale's "Whiffenpoof Song," though "three little asses" and "red little asses" replaced the original "little lost lambs." And one day, several of the players, while walking down the street, came across a car with a bedraggled stuffed duck tied to the grill as a hood ornament. Somehow that duck mysteriously appeared in the hands of a certain team captain, who offered it as the annual game winner's trophy.

The game did not eliminate the antics in the library, however. The pages turned to practicing their football plays in the Reading Room. One of the players, Rudy Lopez, was also on the City College football team. His coach was not pleased when Lopez broke his wrist in an A-Bowl game.

Despite a history of duck thievery, Barberini went on to become a San Francisco policeman (now retired); Goodwin a businessman. But they and their teammates never lost their youthful enthusiasm for the Thanksgiving game. They and their descendants, children and grandchildren, continue to play year after year, though the surviving original members these days play more of a ceremonial role. Most of the active players range in age from teenagers to "older guys" in their 40s.

In the early years, they played on Alvarado's upper schoolyard, but after a few years they moved the main game to the lower yard off Eureka Street, leaving the "upstairs" to friends and relatives, who often play a second game. "The game that counts," Barberini is quick to point out, "is in the lower yard."

The success of their first competition apparently inspired the Red-A's, who to date have won 34 times. The Three-A's



The 1955 A-Bowl football squad had a cheerleader who helped award the stuffed-duck trophy. Shown here on the Alvarado School blacktop are players (back row, left to right) Tom Lane, Jack Goodwin, Jerry King, Charles Barberini, Pat Semple; (front row, left to right) Lou Barberini, Evie Benson (with the duck), and Frank O'Leary. Photo courtesy of Lou Barberini

have won 21 times, and there have been three ties. In 2004, the Three-A's won 35-6.

Not all aspects of the tradition receive universal support. There are no women on the teams. The library's only female page, Evelyn Benson Berger, played the supporting role of cheerleader in the early years. One woman did play for real once in the late 1980s, but she and her sisters did not become a permanent feature of the game.

Over the past four decades, most of the

original families have moved out of the city, but they return each year for the big game. Many team members have ties to Noe Valley, including three sons of the late Dr. Michael McFadden and his wife Mary, who play for the Three-A's. The McFaddens (and several additional siblings) grew up at 24th and Castro, where their father also practiced medicine.

The teams now have five players each and they still use Alvarado School, though Barberini laments that the addition of classrooms and tetherball poles on the lower playground tends to make the field a bit more treacherous. A few years ago, a city worker showed up and asked the group if they had a permit to use the facility. He quickly backed off when informed that the game had been going on for more than half a century.

Another lasting part of the A-Bowl is the post-game party. The teams and their fans, 40 to 50 people, gather outside Sunshine Market, the corner store at 23rd and Douglass streets. Yousef Baqain, the current owner, unfamiliar with the tradition, actually closed the store on Thanksgiving Day the first year he owned it. The many protest notes he later found on the market's door made him realize that this was a foolish decision. Ever since, Baqain opens the store just for the gang, listens to stories about kids and grandkids, and closes up as they all go home to enjoy turkeys instead of duck. □

Kickoff for this year's A-Bowl, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, is "around 10:30 a.m.; depending on how much socializing we do."



The A-Bowl's players, families, and fans traditionally hold a post-game party at Sunshine Market on 23rd Street. This was last year's gathering.

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*References available upon request.*



## The Cost of Living in Noe

### Is Market Cooling? Hard to Tell

By Corrie M. Anders

The number of homes sold in Noe Valley dropped to a modest half dozen in September, raising the question of whether the neighborhood's sizzling housing market is starting to cool.

Not since the sale of five homes in February and six in January have fewer than 10 Noe Valley homes closed escrow in a single month this year. The September sales also were in stark contrast to the 20 homes sold in the same month one year ago.

Six condominiums changed hands in September, according to sales data provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street. Buyers purchased nine condos in the same month last year.

However, the sales data contains mixed

messages about which way the housing market is going. Houses took longer to sell in September, and the average price was considerably lower than in the recent past, general indications of a moderating market. But as they've been doing throughout the boom, buyers continued to pay well over the asking price for homes.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, thinks the summer vacation and a dearth of homes on the market likely contributed to the one-month decline in residential sales.

"This [drop] is not a reflection of anything except for closings in September" that were initiated during August when many home sellers and buyers alike were focused on family vacations and travels rather than real estate, he says.

The elevated sales in September of 2004—and 16 in September of 2003—were atypical, and there was a buying frenzy in those years, he notes. "Last year, we didn't have the slowdown in August that we normally do. This year we did."

Also, in the summer of 2005, buyers didn't have a lot of homes to choose from. Kostick expects next month's Cost of Living column (the October stats) to show a rebound in home sales, because the number of Noe Valley properties hit-

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Sept. 2005	6	\$825,000	\$1,325,000	\$1,103,501	41	115%
Aug. 2005	15	\$800,000	\$2,115,000	\$1,247,533	27	116%
Sept. 2004	20	\$719,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,113,450	37	105%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Sept. 2005	6	\$750,000	\$1,179,000	\$924,167	15	111%
Aug. 2005	9	\$610,000	\$1,395,000	\$903,333	25	117%
Sept. 2004	9	\$525,000	\$1,285,000	\$892,556	23	108%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2005	2	\$1,100,000	\$1,200,007	\$1,150,004	23	119%
Aug. 2005	4	\$950,000	\$1,501,600	\$1,264,150	33	116%
Sept. 2004	7	\$1,140,000	\$2,010,000	\$1,336,000	20	106%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—
Aug. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 2004	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the data. NVV 11/05

### A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents October 2005	Average Rent October 2005	Average Rent September 2005
Studio	3	\$ 795 – \$1,400	\$1,082 / mo.	\$1,200 / mo.
1-bedroom	17	\$1,200 – \$2,500	\$1,692 / mo.	\$1,575 / mo.
2-bedroom	18	\$1,600 – \$3,375	\$2,213 / mo.	\$2,502 / mo.
3-bedroom	13	\$2,150 – \$3,995	\$3,269 / mo.	\$3,545 / mo.
4-bedroom+	0	—	—	\$4,613 / mo.

\*\* This survey was based on a sample of 51 Noe Valley listings appearing on [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com) Oct. 5–12, 2005. The previous sample of 58 listings was collected Sept. 9–14. NVV 11/05

ting the market increased threefold after Labor Day, he says.

Another indication that the Noe Valley housing market remains strong is the premium price buyers continue to offer. In September, buyers on average paid 15 percent more than the asking price to get the detached home they wanted. In a normal market, the asking price and the sales price tend to be much closer.

Homes remained on the market an average of 41 days before they were sold, according to the data for September. In August, homes typically closed escrow in less than one month—a trend of several

months' standing.

If lengthier closings start to approach 45 days and last more than "several months, it would suggest things are normalizing," says Kostick. "But for one month, we can't say that."

Single-family homes in four of the six transactions sold for at least \$1 million. The most expensive was a three-bedroom, two-bath house in the 300 block of 28th Street, which sold for \$1,325,000.

The costliest condo was a two-bedroom, two-bath condo in the 800 block of Clipper Street. Buyers paid \$1,079,000 for the unit. □



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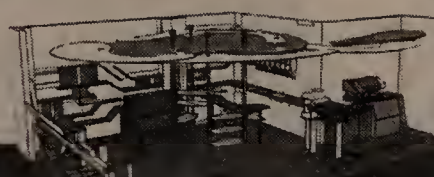
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Sewer Odor	24-Hour Odor Hotline	415-695-2096
Tree Hazards and Trimming	Bureau of Street Environmental Services	
	www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfdpw/trees	415-695-2017
Lost or Injured Animals	Animal Care and Control	415-554-9405
Traffic Signal Out		415-550-2736
Missing or Damaged Street Signs		415-554-9780
Abandoned Vehicles		415-553-9817
Aggressive Panhandling		415-553-0123
Illegal Parking	DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
Someone Needing Detox	Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP)	415-431-7400
Homeless Needing Help	(link to services)	sfdhomeless@sbcglobal.net
Utility Undergrounding	Department of Public Works	
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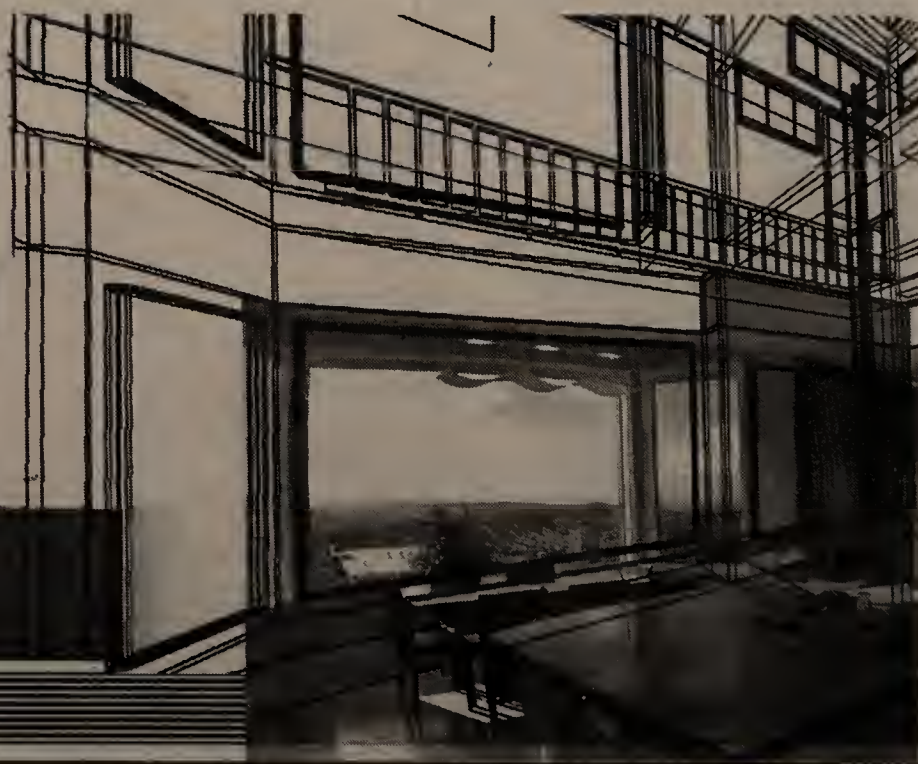
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# POLICE BEAT

**P**olice Beat is a roundup of crimes and other police incidents in Noe Valley. "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View Avenue, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. This month's crime log was culled from September 2005 incident reports provided to the *Voice* by Mission and Ingleside police stations.

## Friday, Sept. 2, 2005

Stolen Automobile: Reported 4:30 p.m., 3600 block of 21st Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 4:30 p.m., 3600 block of 21st Street

## Saturday, Sept. 3

Lost Property: Reported 4 p.m., 500 block of Dolores Street

## Sunday, Sept. 4

Malicious Mischief, Breaking Windows: Reported 6:30 a.m., 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street

Grand Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 2 p.m., 1400 block of Fair Oaks Street  
Stolen Automobile: Reported 10 p.m., 1000 block of Sanchez Street

## Tuesday, Sept. 6

Threats Against Life: Reported 4:06 p.m., 200 block of 27th Street

## Wednesday, Sept. 7

Under Influence of Alcohol in a Public Place, Maintaining a Public Nuisance After Notification: Reported 4:35 p.m., 500 block of Dolores Street

Theft by Use of Credit Card: Reported 5:20 p.m., 700 block of Church Street

## Thursday, Sept. 8

Lost Property: Reported 3 p.m., Clipper and Castro streets

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7:30 p.m., 1100 block of Church Street

Grand Theft Bicycle: Reported 8 p.m., 500 block of Dolores Street

## Friday, Sept. 9

Possession of Base/Rock Cocaine: Reported 3:30 p.m., 700 block of Noe Street; arrest, booked

Missing Juvenile: Reported 7 p.m., 300 block of 30th Street

## Saturday, Sept. 10

Battery: Reported 4 a.m., 3800 block of 21st Street; arrest, booked

Driver's License Suspended or Revoked: Reported 10 a.m., 1600 block of Diamond Street; arrest

Robbery on the Street with a Dangerous Weapon: Reported 11:42 p.m., 600 block of San Jose Avenue; arrest, booked

## Sunday, Sept. 11

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10 a.m., 3600 block of 22nd Street

Lost Property: Reported 3 p.m., 500 block of Dolores Street

Lost Property: Reported 5 p.m., first block of Duncan Street

## Monday, Sept. 12

Petty Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 5 a.m., 400 block of Day Street

Theft by Use of Credit Card, Lost Property, Petty Theft: Reported 10:30 a.m., 22nd and Church streets

## Tuesday, Sept. 13

Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 10:30 a.m., 1500 block of Church Street

Strongarm Robbery on Street: Reported 5:15 p.m., Fair Oaks and 25th streets

## Wednesday, Sept. 14

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 4 p.m., 200 block of Fair Oaks Street

Lost Property: Reported 5 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

## Thursday, Sept. 15

Warrant Arrest: Reported 1:01 a.m., Dolores and Day streets

Lost Property: Reported 8:15 a.m., 24th and Sanchez streets

Driver's License Suspended or Revoked: Reported 1 p.m., Douglass and Clipper streets; arrest

Theft by Use of Credit Card: Reported 2 p.m., 1000 block of Douglass Street

Robbery on the Street with a Gun: Reported 8 p.m., 1800 block of Church Street

Possession and Sale of Amphetamine: Reported 10 p.m., 700 block of Noe Street; arrest, booked

## Friday, Sept. 16

Petty Theft Auto Strip: Reported 12:01 a.m., Cesar Chavez and Guerrero streets  
Suspicious Occurrence: Reported 7 a.m., 1000 block of Church Street

Domestic Violence, Threats Against Life: Reported 7:22 a.m., 1400 block of Church Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported 8 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., 3600 block of 22nd Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported noon, 900 block of Noe Street  
Trespassing, Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 9 p.m., 3600 block of 24th Street

## Saturday, Sept. 17

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 6:45 p.m., 1100 block of Guerrero Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., 300 block of Vicksburg Street

Grand Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 7:30 p.m., 300 block of Liberty Street

Stolen Automobile: Reported 11 p.m., 400 block of Eureka Street

## Sunday, Sept. 18

Stolen Motorcycle: Reported 1:30 p.m., Castro and Clipper streets

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 11 p.m., 4700 block of 25th Street

## Monday, Sept. 19

Burglary of Residence, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 6 p.m., 500 block of 28th Street

## Tuesday, Sept. 20

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 2 a.m., 600 block of Sanchez Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 9 a.m., 1400 block of Noe Street

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11:30 p.m., Sanchez and 25th streets

## Wednesday, Sept. 21

Violation of Restraining Order: Reported 7:50 a.m., 500 block of Dolores Street; arrest, booked

Injury Inflicted on Cohabitee: Reported 12:30 p.m., 1200 block of Noe Street

Harassing Phone Calls: Reported 4:03 p.m., 1300 block of Castro Street

Burglary of Flat Under Construction, Unlawful Entry: Reported 6 p.m., first block of Chattanooga Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10:15 p.m., 26th and Church streets

## Thursday, Sept. 22

Missing Juvenile: Reported 9 a.m., 300 block of 30th Street

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported 11:50 a.m., 100 block of 29th Street

Aided Case, Mentally Disturbed Person: Reported 4:05 p.m., 3800 block of 24th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 5 p.m., Sanchez and 21st streets

Aided Case, Injured Person: Reported 9:16 p.m., 300 block of Diamond Street

## Friday, Sept. 23

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 12:01 a.m., 100 block of Chattanooga Street

Threats Against Life: Reported 3:18 p.m., 1200 block of Noe Street

## Sunday, Sept. 25

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 12:01 a.m., 300 block of Eureka Street

Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol: Reported 5:34 a.m., 100 block of Jersey Street; arrest, booked

Petty Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 7 a.m., Grand View Avenue and Romain Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 7:30 a.m., 4100 block of 21st Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 5 p.m., 1300 block of Sanchez Street

## Monday, Sept. 26

Check Forgery (Felony): Reported 12:01 a.m., 400 block of Valley Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 2:10 a.m., 300 block of Cumberland Street

Obscene Phone Calls: Reported noon, 200 block of Diamond Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 8:30 p.m., Day and Noe streets

## Tuesday, Sept. 27

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported 3:20 a.m., 900 block of Dolores Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 2 p.m., 700 block of Sanchez Street

## Wednesday, Sept. 28

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 12:10 p.m., 300 block of Diamond Street

## Thursday, Sept. 29

Lost Property: Reported 4 p.m., first block of Newburg Street

## Friday, Sept. 30

Robbery, Armed with a Gun: Reported 2:25 a.m., Castro and 25th streets; arrest, booked

Suspicious Person: Reported 8:30 p.m., 28th and Diamond streets



*The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath for providing incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Karol Barske.*

**HOUSE HISTORIES**  
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## How to Contact the SFPD

**N**oe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in both the Mission and Ingleside police districts.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) may also report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us). To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's nontraceable hotline at 552-4558.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing [SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us).

The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Captain Paul Chignell at [Paul\\_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us).

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency situation in San Francisco, call 553-0123.



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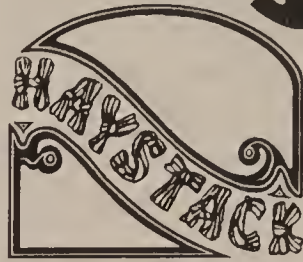
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## First Harvest:

The Street Fair Returns to Noe Valley with Booths, Bands, Dancers, and Pumpkins



Saturday, Oct. 22, witnessed a family takeover of 24th Street between Church and Sanchez, as stroller-pushers and those who love them claimed all the asphalt from sidewalk to sidewalk for the first annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Photos clockwise from top: ★ The Sippy Cups prepare the stage, while fans secure their spots. ★ Bellydancer Alcina gyrates to the tunes by (left to right) Husain Resan, Georges Lammam, and Loay Dahbour. ★ Pumpkin Patch visitors Alison and Jacob Zilversmit and Violet Moses guard their gourds. ★ A worthy contender for the Biggest Banana Slug tries to escape from the Guerrero Street Gardens booth.



Photos by Pamela Gerard





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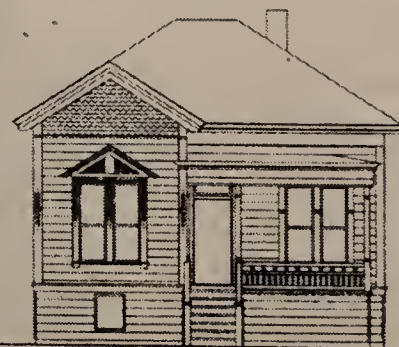
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# SHORT TAKES

## Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst

Neighbors are banding together on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m., to figure out how locals can be ready for a major disaster. Richard May, newly elected president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley, is organizing the free meeting, which will be held at St. Philip Parish Hall at Diamond and Elizabeth streets.

"Our disaster plan may take time to develop, but perhaps volunteers at the meeting will agree to meet to develop the outline for the neighborhood to discuss and refine," May says.

Through the web site 72hours.org, San Francisco officials have been encouraging residents to plan for three days without power following a quake, but May believes that's not enough. "From recent experiences with the tsunami [in Southeast Asia], the Kashmir earthquake, and [flooding in] New Orleans, we know we will be on our own much longer than three days. So, coming up with a seven-day plan for mutual survival sounds much more sensible."

May says his concern is in response to what he calls the "pitiful" response of city, state, and federal officials to the disaster in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in September. "We have to assume it wouldn't be any better for us," he notes. Call him at 206-0231 if you would like to participate in the disaster planning.

## Fall into Autumn Art

Gallery Sanchez, the upstairs art space at the Noe Valley Ministry, will host an Autumn Art Fair on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Phoebe McAfee, who runs the gallery, says many of the artists featured at the fair are locals, including herself, sculptor and painter Nancy Reese, toymaker Betsy Bannerman, and knitter Ryckje Wagner.

"Nancy approached me this summer and said she has lots of sculpture at her studio and would like to sell it and give a portion of the proceeds to the Ministry building fund," says McAfee. "[That's when] the idea of an art fair was born."

The fair will include jewelry made by longtime Clipper Street resident Lynn Roberts, who passed away in October.

Reese's paintings and McAfee's weavings will be on display at Gallery Sanchez throughout the month of November; then for the art fair, they'll bring out their three-dimensional art and include the other artists' work. The items on display will be for sale that day. Reese and McAfee will donate half of the proceeds from sales of their art to the Ministry; the other artists will also make donations of their choosing.

McAfee adds, "It should be fun!" The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street.

## Rally for Women's Rights

Everyone is welcome to join the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights in a Nov. 5 rally in support of women's health and freedom. The Saturday demonstration will start at 1:30 p.m. with a gathering in Dolores Park—at 19th and Dolores streets—and end at 4:30 p.m. with a Take Back the Night March.

Among the causes the group is championing are universal health care; access to safe birth control, prenatal care, and affordable childcare; and the nomination of Supreme Court justices who will safeguard women's rights and civil liberties. The organization is actively campaigning against Proposition 73, a Nov. 8 ballot measure that would require parents to be

notified before their minor daughter had an abortion. At the rally, participants will learn what the coalition is doing to counter anti-abortion groups coming to San Francisco in January 2006.

The event features music, art, and speakers, including San Francisco City Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, Oakland City Councilwoman Nancy Nadel, writer Michelle Tea, and Women's Choice Clinic director Linci Comy. For more information, call 864-1278.

## Neighbors Come Clean (Again)

Since the two Clean Sweep days during the summer were such a success, a third neighborhood cleanup will happen on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. until noon. Participants should meet at the Farmers' Market mini-park on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets. As usual, the organizers will provide free breakfast, brooms, gloves, and cleaning supplies, and children are welcome to participate with their parents. Volunteers will organize themselves into teams and set off to clean their designated areas.

According to co-organizer Richard May, residents are encouraged to hold block parties to clean, weed, and paint residential areas of Noe Valley. Team leaders are also needed to supervise cleanup crews and help ensure volunteers' safety. To be a team leader or to coordinate your block cleanup with the rest of the neighborhood, send an e-mail to May at [rambooks@pachell.net](mailto:rambooks@pachell.net).

## Bookstore Out for Blood

Cover to Cover Booksellers is hosting its first-ever blood drive on Monday, Nov. 21, from noon until 4 p.m. During those hours, a donation truck from Blood Centers of the Pacific will be parked in front of the store, located at 1307 Castro Street near 24th Street. It's a good time to get in some holiday shopping, too, since Cover to Cover is offering a 15 percent discount that day to everyone who donates a pint of blood.

Store owner Tracy Wynne said she decided to hold the blood drive because she has family in Louisiana and wanted to help out after the floods caused there by Hurricane Katrina. She found out that Louisiana already had a surplus of blood, but that hospitals in the Bay Area needed some. "I decided to keep going with the blood drive because I believe it's important," she said.

## City College Signup

It's time to ponder the wide array of educational opportunities available at City College of San Francisco's Castro-Valencia campus—known by day as James Lick Middle School at 25th and Noe streets. According to Bruce Smith, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, the spring course schedule will begin showing up in residents' mailboxes during November.

The Castro-Valencia campus offers courses in foreign languages such as Spanish, French, Italian, German, Chinese, and Russian. The school also offers theater; art; music; English; health; physical education; women's studies; gay, lesbian, and transgender studies; and behavioral and social science classes. Courses are open to all adults and cost \$26 per unit for California residents.

For complete schedule information, or to file a new student application, visit the City College web site at [www.ccsf.edu](http://www.ccsf.edu).

## Snuff Out Your Smokes

In honor of the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smoke-Out, a local organization is offering a free session to help smokers prepare to quit. Lori Feldman, LCSW, director of the QuitSmart smoking cessation program, invites those who want to be former

## Democratic Club Hosts Panel on Stem Cell Research

By Noel Lieberman

The thorny issue of stem cell research is coming to Noe Valley. The Noe Valley Democratic Club will sponsor an informational panel discussion, "Stem Cell Research: The Promise, the Hype, and the Reality," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Noe Valley Ministry. Admission is free and open to the public.

The panel will include Mary Maxon, deputy vice chair of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM); Rik Derynck, co-director of the Institute for Stem Cell and Tissue Biology at the University of California, San Francisco; David Serrano Sewell, a patient advocate for multiple sclerosis and a member of CIRM's board of directors; and Jeff Sheehy, a patient advocate for HIV/AIDS, who is also on the board.

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine was established by state Proposition 71 to promote stem cell research in the state.

At the Democratic Club program, Maxon will discuss CIRM's goals and objectives and give examples of projects that the institute will undertake. Derynck will bring the audience up to date on the scientific aspects of stem cell research. Sheehy and Serrano Sewell will discuss their functions on the CIRM board and their perspective on stem cell research vis à vis their particular advocacies.

Maxon has made key contributions throughout her career in the field of gene expression, authoring several publications in bacterial, fungal, and human systems, in addition to more recent work in cell biology and drug discovery. Before joining the California Institute, she organized and chaired a National Academies of Science conference in India on new drug opportunities for neglected diseases in the developing world, and remains active in the global health community.

UCSF launched the Institute for Stem Cell and Tissue Biology in September of this year. The institute unites under one umbrella two major programs exploring the nature of stem cells. Panelist Derynck is director of one program, which focuses on the development and biology of bone, cartilage, muscle, fat, and connective tissue.

Serrano Sewell is a deputy city attorney in the San Francisco city attorney's office, assigned to the Port of San Francisco. He has served on the city's Ethics and Elections Commission and on the board of directors of BRAVA! for Women in the Arts. After his own diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, he began volunteering with the Northern California Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sheehy worked with state Senator Carole Migden on the Survive AIDS Initiative to raise funds for organ transplants for people with HIV. In 1996, he and two colleagues conceived, drafted, and lobbied for San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance, which requires companies contracting with the city to provide domestic partner benefits. Sheehy was appointed HIV/AIDS adviser to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004 and has been deputy director for communications at the AIDS Research Institute at UCSF since 2000.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. for the panel discussion at the Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. For more information, contact Democratic Club President Rafael Mandelman at 648-4010.

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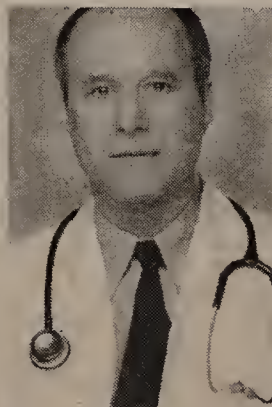
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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

smokers to visit her office at 3884 24th Street (near Sanchez Street) on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Feldman says her program helps people kick the habit by planning ahead, slowly overcoming physical addiction, thinking positively, and participating in hypnosis. "[This] hypnosis isn't the hocus-pocus that some people expect," Feldman says. "It's just a pleasant relaxation with the mind focused on being comfortably free of cigarettes."

Registration for the free informational session is required. To sign up, call Feldman at 285-9770.

## Having an Art Attack?

Artery is the place for art lovers to be in November, with a new series of classes starting up for all ages.

For the little ones, there's a six-week Terrific Twos class for toddlers with adults, and a preschool class for children ages 3 to 5. Slightly older children can choose from Trading Card Creation, Art-BOTS, Art Girls, and Every Child Can Learn to Draw classes, all of which are available in six-week sessions.

The In-beTEEN art class is moderately priced for kids who are beginning to manage their own money, and it happens on Saturdays for students ages 13 to 16, with beginners very welcome.

A one-day collage workshop for adults takes place on Sunday, Nov. 13, and a beadwork jewelry class for anyone age 13 or older will meet for six weeks. For information on fees and times, visit [www.arterysf.com](http://www.arterysf.com) or call 285-0235.

## It May Be Garbage, But It Isn't Cheap

Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal, the folks in charge of taking out the city's trash, are asking for a rate increase. In other words, garbage bills may go up in 2006.

The Department of Public Works is holding a meeting on Friday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., to give the public more information about the rate increase process and a chance to prepare for a series of public hearings scheduled for early 2006.

Public comments will be accepted at the Nov. 4 meeting, says DPW spokeswoman Christine Falvey, but the real purpose of the meeting is to show people "what the process is, here's why the company is asking for it, and here's how the city responds to it."

Those who want to protest a rate hike will have the information they need to prepare for the next step. The meeting will be held in Room 400 of City Hall. For more information, visit the DPW web site at [www.sfdpw.org](http://www.sfdpw.org).

## Church Collects Socks for Homeless

For several years, Bethany United Methodist Church has prepared Thanksgiving boxes for W.O.M.A.N., Inc., a community-based agency that serves battered women in San Francisco and the larger Bay Area. Each box contains the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner—turkey, stuffing, vegetables, rolls, cranberry sauce, and pie.

This year, members are gathering donations at the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Nov. 20. "This is not just a food drive where people drop off food in big bins, although we do accept donations of non-perishable food throughout the year because people frequently come to our door asking for food," says Marilyn Herand, co-chair of Bethany's social jus-

tice committee. "For this, we carefully prepare each box." Residents who would like to donate or otherwise help should call the church to find out the logistics.

Something else the church is collecting from now until Dec. 18 is socks. "We're collecting them for Project Homeless Connect.... There's usually a thousand or more homeless people that come, and we want to have enough socks for all of them," Herand says.

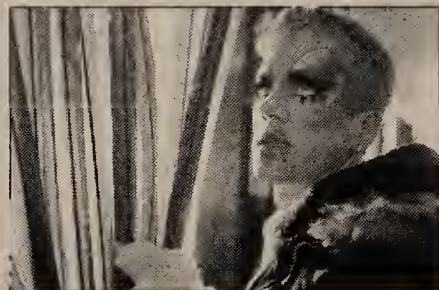
People can drop off socks at any 11 a.m. Sunday church service or call to make special arrangements. To find out more, call Herand at 648-4092 or the church office at 647-8393. Bethany is at 1268 Sanchez Street, at Clipper Street.

## In Dog We Trust

"We're really excited about hosting the first book event since our store opened," says Celia Sack, co-owner of the Noe Valley Pet Company. "I hope it will lead to many more."

She and co-owner Paula Harris are welcoming Tracie Hotchner, author of *The Dog Bible*, to their store, located at 1451 Church Street, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3.

Hotchner will discuss her book and answer the gamut of dog-related questions. Dogs and their people are invited, and Sack promises party favors, too. A portion of proceeds from book sales will go to Rocket Dog Rescue.



*Blood, Sweat, and Glitter*, a documentary by Noe Valley filmmaker Sasha Aickin about the 2004 Miss Trannyshack competition, plays Nov. 4 at the Roxie Cinema.

## Film Arts Fest Features Locals

Two local filmmakers' work will be showcased in the 21st annual Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema, which runs Nov. 3 to 6 at locations in San Francisco, San Rafael, and Oakland.

On Friday, Nov. 4, at 11:30 p.m., Noe Valley resident Sasha Aickin's film *Blood, Sweat, and Glitter* screens as part of the festival's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Night. The documentary takes viewers behind the scenes during preparations for San Francisco's Miss Trannyshack beauty pageant.

Jay Rosenblatt's film *Phantom Limb* will also screen during the festival, as part of a series of shorts on Friday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. The personal film explores the impact of the death of Rosenblatt's 7-year-old brother on his family.

Both films will screen at the Roxie Cinema, located at 3117 16th Street near Valencia Street. To buy tickets, visit [www.filmarts.org](http://www.filmarts.org) or call 800-838-3006.

## Clay and Glass Showcase

Potter Bonita Cohn, who teaches at Ruby's Clay Studio on Noe Street, will be exhibiting her work at the San Francisco Clay and Glass Festival on Saturday, Nov. 5, and Sunday, Nov. 6, at Herbst Pavilion in Fort Mason.

Cohn will be present to discuss the craft and answer questions from visitors. The event will include live clay and glass-blowing demonstrations and a fun workshop for kids called "Clay for Kids."

The Festival is hosted annually by the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California, a non-profit organization of over 300 artists and supporters of the craft.

*This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant and Laura McHale Holland.*

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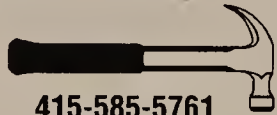


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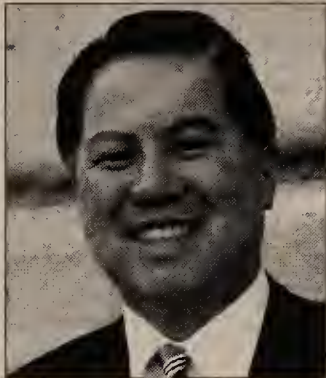
# Noe Valley Democratic Club



November 8 Election Endorsements



Treasurer  
José Cisneros



Assessor  
Phil Ting



City Attorney  
Dennis Herrera

Prop A	Community College District Bonds A Worthwhile Investment in a Precious Public Asset	Yes
Prop B	Street and Sidewalk Improvement Bonds Restore Our Public Infrastructure	Yes
Prop C	Ethics Commission Budget and Outside Counsel Ensure Fair Enforcement of Our Ethics Laws	Yes
Prop D	MUNI Reform Give the Neighborhoods a Voice at MUNI	Yes
Prop E	Election Date of Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender A Sensible and Noncontroversial Adjustment of the Election Calendar	Yes
Prop F	Neighborhood Firehouses	No Position
Prop G	Access to Underground Parking at Golden Gate Park A Reasonable Proposal, With Broad Support Across the Political Spectrum	Yes
Prop H	Firearm Ban	No Position
Prop I	Military Recruiting	No Position

Prop 73	Waiting Period and Parental Notification Protect Teens. Protect Choice.	No
Prop 74	Teacher Probation Stop Arnold's Vindictive Attack On Our Teachers	No
Prop 75	Public Employee Union Dues Don't Let the Republicans Silence Our Teachers, Firefighters, Police and Nurses	No
Prop 76	State Funding and School Funding Limits Tell the Governor to Keep His Hands Off Education Funding	No
Prop 77	Schwarzenegger's Re-Districting Measure Do We Really Need MORE Republicans in Congress?	No
Prop 78	Big Pharma's Prescription Drug Measure Oppose This Misleading Effort To Divert Support from Proposition 79	No
Prop 79	Consumer Groups' Prescription Drug Measure Support Real Reform	Yes
Prop 80	Electricity Regulation The Ideologues Had Their Chance; Let's Not Go Back	Yes





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## Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

### Too Good to Be True

By Roz Leiser

When my contractor, we'll call him Bob, asked if he could use me as a reference, I didn't know what to say. After all, he had finished the job on time and stayed within the projected budget. What self-respecting contractor in San Francisco would want such information spread around town?

I first became nervous about Bob when he returned my phone call the day after I made it. Of the nine other contractors I had called over the previous month, only one had even bothered to call back—two weeks after I'd left a message for him. The busy man politely informed me that he was giving me the courtesy of returning my call only because I had mentioned in the voice-mail that his best friend referred me. However, it would be impossible for him to do a job as minor as my kitchen remodel any time in the next three years.

Good luck!

There was the unlicensed contractor from Eastern Europe whose response to all questions was "No problem." As in,

"Move the plumbing? No problem." "Permit I don't get. No problem." When I asked him for a business card, he said he was so well loved he didn't need one.

I did manage to speak to another contractor in person while she was working on a project for a friend, but she refused to work outside Brisbane. "I wish I could help you, but San Francisco is way too much of a hassle," she told me as I knelt beside her ladder and pleaded to make her even richer.

When I finally got a second contractor to put in a bid for the job, I became really anxious at the thought of having the work done for half the price by Bob. Sure, Bob wasn't going to seal off the room with zippered three-layer impene-trable plastic, but was it worth having to vacuum up dust to save \$1,500?

History was guiding me, as well as the endless list of horror stories I heard from friends and strangers when I mentioned that I was going to have my kitchen remodeled. This was one of the reasons we had waited 15 years after first setting eyes on the "brother-in-law special" that came with our house. So what if the bottoms of the kitchen drawers were falling out. We could live with them for one more year, couldn't we?

When the subject of remodeling arose in any gathering of friends, a free-for-all competition for Worst Nightmare or Funniest Excuse ensued. I had gotten quite a few laughs at dinner parties telling the story of how the contractor who'd built the deck on our house had forgotten that his wife was having a baby until the day after his son was born, and thus had a great excuse for not coming to work for the next month. That, it seemed to me, was normal contractor behavior. A contractor who left me with nothing to complain about would be a marked social liability.

Still, I threw caution to the wind and hired Bob. After spending an entire weekend frantically packing up everything in the kitchen, I was shocked when he appeared as promised to start the job on Monday. In the course of the next six weeks, there were several occasions when I thought I might have the experience I'd anticipated. The floor tiles mysteriously disappeared on the boat from Singapore. Then the paper-work showing that they had been ordered at all was nowhere to be found. A stud appeared where the vent hood for the stove was supposed to go. The cabinet door handles, on back order for two weeks, took three months to arrive. One cabinet had a huge scratch on a side panel. Did any of this deter my contractor? Did he say that he would have to put his crew on another job for a "few days" and then not reappear for three weeks? Not Yessirree Bob.

Day after day, his crew showed up for work as scheduled. When my friends asked me how the job was going, I was ashamed to murmur, "Fine." "Oh, that's good," said my friend whose contractor had removed her roof to build a second story and then discovered that the foundation had to be replaced, adding another \$75,000 to the cost of the job. When she complained, he handled the conflict by disappearing at the start of the worst rainy season in a decade. She had regaled me for hours describing the tons of water breaking through the tarp on the roof, the phone calls asking friends for help in the mid-

dle of the night, not to mention the lawsuit that was still dragging on three years later. To cheer her up, I told her about the missing floor tiles, but she seemed unimpressed.

With nausea-induc-

ing speed, I watched

as the ugliest, cheapest brown plywood in creation was replaced with lovely new maple cabinets, and as the 16 extension cords hanging from every available plug vanished and 12 outlets materialized. The three-spotlight track lighting that made me feel like I was starring in an underfunded special on the food channel was gone, and instead there were 16 recessed lights, three pendant lights, and under-the-counter task lighting. Everything worked. The dishwasher was so quiet I couldn't believe it was running. The burners on the stove could actually be turned down without blowing out. The toaster and microwave operated simultaneously without tripping the circuit breaker. And it all looked beautiful.

After mulling over the ethics of being used as a reference for the person who had made this miracle happen, whose work and work habits were suspiciously faultless, I finally decided that I could say yes. I called Bob to let him know, but he never returned my call. □

Roz Leiser lives on Stillings Avenue in Glen Park and works in Noe Valley as a health and bereavement counselor. Her writing has been printed in such publications as The Sun and Across the Generations. After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, she decided to give this year's remodeling budget to Habitat for Humanity.

### Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of first-person essays. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail submissions to [Bylines@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:Bylines@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include your name, address, and phone number.



## Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

### Views Are for the Birds

By Sandra Wulff

When I tell people I recently moved to Liberty Street, the common response is, "Wow, you must have a spectacular view."

Well, I do—except, as my brother observed the first time he entered my apartment, "You gotta get rid of that tree."

Nearly all my visitors say the same thing. My husband suggested we pierce the tree with a copper nail. It would die gradually. No one would suspect us.

The offending plant is a five-story-tall conifer with sprays of sharp two-inch needles and pine cones the size of hand grenades. The top of the tree, distorted by constant wind, points perpetually towards Bernal Hill. Years ago, the residents downstairs convinced the neighbor to saw off 10 feet of vista-blocking limbs. The amputated pine now resembles something Charlie Brown would drag home—if he were a giant.

Smack outside my kitchen window, the tree stands between me and what would be an unobstructed view of the City Hall dome.

My new neighbors proposed we conspire to persuade the guy next door to cut the tree down. At that I snapped.

You see, I like the tree. "Birds land on that tree," I whined to these veritable strangers. Then, to redeem myself in case they'd considered me a kooky tree-hugger, I told them about the parrots.

I'd heard that wild parrots had roosted near Dolores Park but that they'd disappeared from the area—eventually finding fame on Telegraph Hill. But on a recent sunny Sunday afternoon, an unfamiliar squawk lured me to the window to investigate. "The

parrots are in our tree!" I'd exclaimed out loud to an empty house. There they were, visiting the old neighborhood—three small bright-green parrots perched side by side on an upper branch.

"Right outside my window—the parrots!" I said, excitedly. The neighbors feigned mild interest.

I could go on. The tree attracts an unimaginable variety of birds. Tiny, iridescent green hummingbirds buzz by the branches. Crows *caw* and mourning doves *coo*. Sparrows and starlings alight. I noticed a blue jay, with a spiky crown of black feathers, picking insects with its pointed beak. And the most riveting exhibit yet—a sharp-shinned hawk. The predator, with its large brown-and-white-dappled body, flat striped tail, beady eyes, and short sharp beak, frightened the songbirds away but held me captive. A hawk here in the middle of the city!

Like a shelter hut offering respite to back-country hikers, the tree has

become a haven for journeying birds, a pit stop before miles of downtown buildings transform into miles of sea. They stop by on their way across town or across the continent. They rest, they eat, they preen. I watch.

My binoculars, which had been stuffed in their case since I camped the Everglades 10 years ago, I now keep out on my kitchen counter. As Indian Summer comes to a close, I eagerly anticipate nest construction and migrating birds. I'll invite the neighbors. The view is spectacular. □

*Sandra Wulff works in the research department of the University of California. Office of the President. Though writing is only a sideline for her, she last year won the 2005 U.C. Berkeley Fabilli-Hoffer essay prize. A former resident of Elizabeth Street, Wulff has lived on Liberty Street with her husband James since July. The birds outside her window are the closest she comes to having pets.*

#### Let Bylines Be Bylines

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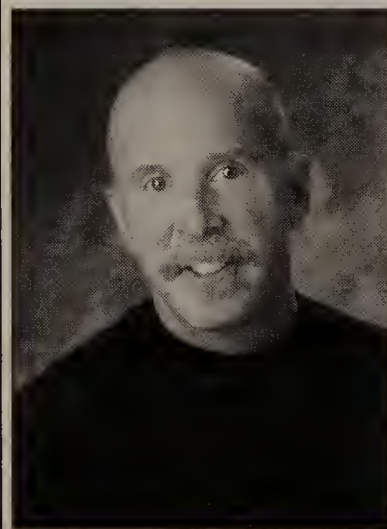
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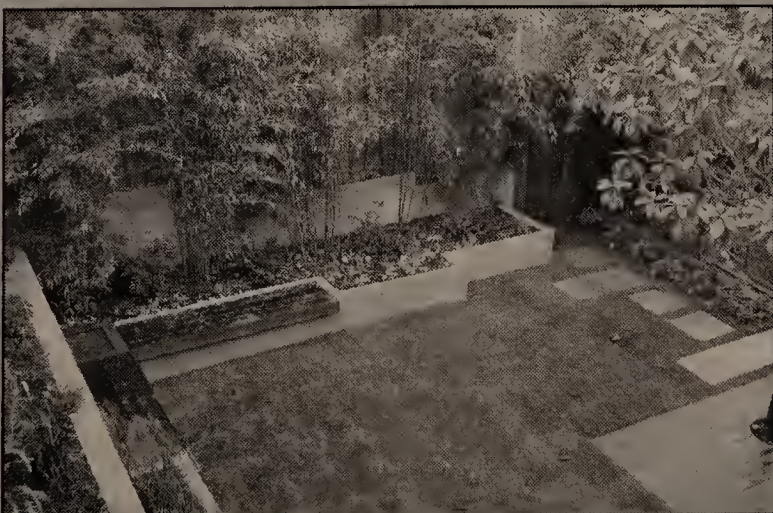
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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
E-mail: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100  
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30  
p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-  
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn  
Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club**

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month  
(every other month—call to confirm), Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month  
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-  
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for information. The annual  
Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day  
before Mother's Day.

## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
E-mail: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,  
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley**

Contact: Richard May, 206-0231  
E-mail: [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net)  
Web site: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San  
Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the  
month (call or e-mail to confirm), Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 205 30th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772  
E-mail: [christina\\_goebel@yahoo.com](mailto:christina_goebel@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San  
Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**

Contact: Martine, [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com).  
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month,  
1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices  
of other events, e-mail your first name, and  
your baby's first name and age, to [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com) or go to [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010  
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month;  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,  
7:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

Co-sponsor: Noe Valley Ministry  
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,  
6 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,  
[kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-  
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the

San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month,  
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 6:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association**

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954  
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th  
St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month,  
Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

Contact: Mina Kenvin  
E-mail: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com) (this is an e-  
mail resource network for parents)

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
E-mail: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Web site: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See web site.

**See Jane Run Running/Walking Club**

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338  
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San  
Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet  
at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk  
route. Info? [www.SeeJaneRunSports.com](http://www.SeeJaneRunSports.com).)

**Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)**

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and  
Fair Oaks to Mission  
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
E-mail: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)  
Web site: [www.tail-wagging.com](http://www.tail-wagging.com)  
Meetings: E-mail for information.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call  
to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center,  
Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.

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# • NOVEMBER 2005 •

**Nov. 13:** Robin Ward teaches a one-day COLLAGE WORKSHOP for adults; all materials included. 1-6 pm. Artery, 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

**Nov. 13:** Huong Nguyen of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network discusses the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy at the PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP. 2 to 4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

**Nov. 13:** The Empyrean Ensemble performs new music from around the world at the Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC program at the Noe Valley Ministry. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

**Nov. 13:** Jack Collins discusses the work of PAUL BOWLES and his relevance to the "post-9/11 globalized world." 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**Nov. 15:** FILMS for children ages 3 to 5 screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

**Nov. 15:** James R. Smith discusses "San Francisco's LOST LANDMARKS" at a meeting of the San Francisco History Association. 7 pm. Mission School auditorium, Church & 16th. 750-9986.

**Nov. 16:** Community Care Licensing offers a CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation, 9 to 11:30 am. Children's Council, 445 Church St. 343-3333.

**Nov. 16:** DEBORAH KOONS-GARCIA discusses her film *The Future of Food*. 11 am-1 pm. City College's Diego Rivera Theater, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3580.

**Nov. 16:** The Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a panel on "STEM CELL Research: the Promise, the Hype, and the Reality." 7 pm (register starting at 6:30 pm). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. [Rafaelmandelman@yahoo.com](mailto:Rafaelmandelman@yahoo.com).

**Nov. 17:** QuitSmart smoking cessation program offers a free session in observance of the American Cancer Society's Great American SMOKE-OUT. 3-4 pm. 3884 24th St. 285-9770.



Najib Joe Hakim's "Nora" will be on display Nov. 11-18 at Space Gallery as part of a show titled "Introspection: Public vs. Private."

**Nov. 17:** Herbal Holiday GIFT-MAKING, a class led by Suzanne Elliott, includes mustards, culinary blends, bath salts, and homemade kahlua. 7-9 pm. Scarlet Sage Herb Co., 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.

**Nov. 17:** Friends of Noe Valley hosts "Seven Days: Preparing a DISASTER PLAN for Noe Valley." 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Parish Hall, Diamond & Elizabeth. 282-9918.

**Nov. 19:** Volunteers are needed for a HABITAT RESTORATION work party at Corona Heights Park. Meet at 10 am at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Nov. 19:** "Getting the Most Out of Your MORTGAGE," a lecture by lender Adam Traver, discusses reverse mortgages and equity lines of credit at the Older Women's League (OWL) meeting. 10 am to noon. Call 989-4422 for location.

**Nov. 19:** A NATIVE PLANT landscaping workshop teaches propagation and care. 10 am-1 pm. Garden for the Environment, Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 731-5627.

**Nov. 19:** They Call Me Luck performs rock, country, blues, and FOLK MUSIC. 10:30 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 24th Street between Sanchez & Vicksburg. 695-9299.

**Nov. 19:** LAPSITS at the Noe Valley Library feature songs and stories for infants, toddlers, and their parents. 10:30 am. 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

**Nov. 19:** A CRAFTS MARKETPLACE at Lick-Wilmerding High School has food, entertainment, a raffle, and arts and crafts by local artists, to benefit the school's Flexible Tuition program. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. 755 Ocean Ave. 585-1725, ext. 288.

**Nov. 19:** The LADIES BANJO SOCIETY performs at an old-fashioned square dance at Community Music Center. 8:30 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**Nov. 19-20 & 26-27:** The 27th annual Women's Building Celebration of CRAFTSWOMEN features 300 artists in diverse media. 10 am-5 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 510-843-4233; [www.womensbuilding.org](http://www.womensbuilding.org).

**Nov. 20:** A child and INFANT CPR certification training class runs from 9 am to 1 pm. Natural Resources, 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**Nov. 20:** SANTA PAWS will be at the San Francisco SPCA to pose with pets for holiday photos. 11 am-3 pm. 243 Alabama St. 522-3500.

**Nov. 20:** The annual PARK PLANNING FAIR sponsored by the Rec and Park Department offers discussion of park improvements. Noon-4 pm. County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue near Lincoln Way. 831-2782.

**Nov. 20:** The 17th annual UNSUNG HERO AWARDS program also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. 1 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

**Nov. 20:** A hands-on workshop for aspiring adult NONFICTION WRITERS includes panelists Joyce Maynard, Mary Roach, Clark Blaise, and David Ewing Duncan. 5-8 pm. 826 Valencia St. 642-5905; [www.826valencia.org/workshops/adult](http://www.826valencia.org/workshops/adult).

**Nov. 21:** Cover to Cover hosts the first annual Noe Valley BLOOD DRIVE for the Blood Centers of the Pacific; donors will receive 15% off their literary purchases. Noon-4 pm. 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

**Nov. 21:** The ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry features portrait artist Irene Asturias Kaufman, her daughter, choreographer and author Sara Templeton, and artist/poet Marlene Aron. 7 pm; no-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm. RSVP to [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net) or call 821-2090.

**Nov. 24:** The 59th annual Thanksgiving A-Bowl TOUCH FOOTBALL game begins at 10:30 am in the Alvarado School playground.

**Nov. 26:** Mike Shaffer and the Faux Brummels play music at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 24th Street between Sanchez & Vicksburg. 695-9299.

**Nov. 26:** Alex the MAGICIAN performs astonishing feats for all ages. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

**Nov. 27:** The 21st annual RUN TO THE FAR SIDE is a 10K/5K run/walk, with costumes inspired by Gary Larson's cartoons, to benefit the California Academy of Sciences. 8:30 am. Register at 759-2690 or [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

**Nov. 30:** KAMI MCBRIDE leads a workshop featuring "Herbs for the Cold and Flu Season." 7-9 pm. Scarlet Sage Herb Co., 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.

**Nov. 30:** Pacifica Radio broadcast journalist Stephanie Hendricks discusses the influence of DOMINION THEOLOGISTS, who believe that exhausting natural resources will hasten the second coming of Christ, on Bush's environmental policy. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**Dec. 2:** The San Francisco Conservatory of Music presents its final "Sing-It-Yourself MESSIAH." 8 pm. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. 864-6000.

**Dec. 4:** The Bicycle Coalition's WINTERFEST party and auction features silent and live auctions, entertainment, and refreshments. 6-10:30 pm. SomArts, 934 Brannan St. 431-BIKE.

**Dec. 6:** Alvarado School hosts a COMMUNITY POTLUCK, featuring arts and crafts for sale. 625 Douglass St. 467-4748.

## Delightful, Delovely December

The next edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*,—which will cover two months, December 2005 and January 2006—will be distributed on or before Dec. 2, 2005. The deadline for calendar items is **Nov. 15**. Please note that because of an ongoing space crunch, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to Calendar Editor Karol Barske at [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com).

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# CALENDAR



**Oct. 31:** Hoffman Avenue between Elizabeth and 24th Street has a HAUNTED HOUSE—look for the witch stirring her cauldron! 6-8 pm. 285-6265.

**Oct. 31:** It's Halloween in the CASTRO. 6 pm-midnight. [www.halloweeninthecastro.com](http://www.halloweeninthecastro.com).

**Nov. 1, 8 & 29:** Preschool STORY TIME, for kids 2 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

**Nov. 1-26:** Artworks by Phoebe McAfee and Nancy Reese will be on display at GALLERY SANCHEZ in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**Nov. 1-30:** The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves nutritious hot lunches for people over 60. 12:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 648-1030 to make a reservation.

**Nov. 1-30:** Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. and Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am. Call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857 for location.

**Nov. 1-Dec. 17:** The San Francisco CHILDREN'S ART CENTER offers Saturday classes, featuring a range of media, for ages 9 to 12. 9:30-11:30 am. Dolores Park Clubhouse. Register at 771-0292.

**Nov. 2:** Artsake offers a six-week class, "Beginning OIL PAINTING." Wed., 6-9 pm. 3961 24th St. 695-0506; [www.artsakesf.com](http://www.artsakesf.com).

**Nov. 2:** MARK BITTNER shows slides and discusses his book *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Potrero Branch Library, 2626 20th St. 355-2822.

**Nov. 3:** Tracie Hotchner, author of *The DOG Bible*, will discuss canine issues. 6-8 pm. Noe Valley Pet Company, 1451 Church St. 282-7385.

**Nov. 4:** The Department of Public Works hosts a public meeting to discuss a proposed rate increase for services by SUNSET SCAVENGER and Golden Gate Disposal. 1-4 pm. Room 400, City Hall; [www.sfdpw.org](http://www.sfdpw.org).

**Nov. 4:** The Film Arts Festival of INDEPENDENT CINEMA features two Noe Valleyans: Jay Rosenblatt's *Phantom Limb* screens at 6 pm, and Sasha Aiken's *Blood, Sweat, and Glitter* shows at 11:30 pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. 800-838-3006; [www.filmarts.org](http://www.filmarts.org).

**Nov. 4:** Daniel Richman reads from a new collection of POETRY, *Farming in San Francisco*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

**Nov. 4-25:** Theresa Garcia leads ROSEN METHOD movement classes. 8:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, Upper Studio, 1021 Sanchez St. 812-9917.

**Nov. 4-Dec. 11:** Sam Gordon exhibits ARTWORK in "The Twinkie Defense: New Paintings, Thoughtographs, and Sketchbooks, 95/05." Reception Nov. 4, 6-8 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm, and by appointment. Ratio 3, 903 Guerrero St. 646-732-2767.

**Nov. 5:** The third neighborhood CLEAN SWEEP needs volunteers from 9 am to noon. Meet at the Farmers' Market minipark for a 24th Street cleanup. Or go to James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., or Alvarado, 625 Douglass St.; 9 am-4 pm. [Rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:Rambooks@pacbell.net).

**Nov. 5:** A RUMMAGE SALE sponsored by Miraloma Elementary School's PTA benefits the phys. ed. program. 9 am-1 pm. 175 Omar Way. 469-4134.

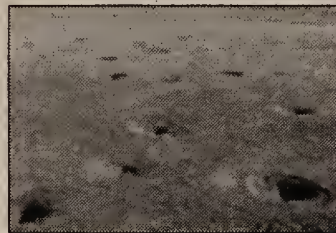
**Nov. 5:** The TRIPLE THREAT QUARTET performs at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 24th Street between Sanchez & Vicksburg. 695-9299.

**Nov. 5:** A Women's Rights RALLY AND MARCH to stop the war on reproductive rights features music, art, and speakers. 1:30 pm rally in Dolores Park; 4:30 pm "Take Back the Night" march. 864-1278.

**Nov. 5:** St. Paul's benefit DINNER DANCE, "Streets of Paris," begins with an auction at 6 pm. United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. 648-7538.

**Nov. 5:** Into the Light Productions presents a multimedia staging and recitation of the GOSPEL of Mark. 7 pm. St. John the Evangelist Church, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

**Nov. 5:** Old-time STRING BAND the Stairwell Sisters performs "kicking instrumentals and hair-raising harmonies." 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



Native Americans confront the U.S. government's nuclear-energy policy in the documentary *Trespassing*, playing Nov. 5 at 5:45 pm at the Roxie Cinema.

**Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26:** Dennis Treanor, ceramics instructor at the Randall Museum, leads tours to tell the stories of the Beniamino BUFANO animal sculptures. 10:30 am. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Nov. 5 & 6:** Potter Bonita Cohn is among the exhibitors at the annual San Francisco CLAY AND GLASS Festival, in Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason. 10 am-5 pm. 507-9909.

**Nov. 6:** Rocket DOG RESCUE turns the spotlight on a few select dogs ready to be adopted. Noon-4 pm. In front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

**Nov. 6:** A PRISON ART SHOW at Modern Times Bookstore also features a discussion by representatives from Art Behind Bars and the *Prison Art Newsletter*. 4 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**Nov. 7:** The Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry features San Francisco poet laureate DEVORAH MAJOR and her mother, artist Helen Gabriel Major. 7 pm; no-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm. RSVP to [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net) or call 821-2090.

**Nov. 7:** A six-week class, "Introduction to WATERCOLOR," covers all the basics. Mon., 6-9 pm. Artsake, 3961 24th St. 695-0506; [www.artsakesf.com](http://www.artsakesf.com).

**Nov. 7-Dec. 12:** Artery offers a six-week class for students 6 to 8 years old, "TRADING CARD Creation," inspired by the Yu-Gi-Oh! and Pokemon craze. 4-5 pm. 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

**Nov. 8:** VOTE in the California Special Election; polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. 554-4367.

**Nov. 8:** James Lick Middle School holds an Election Day BAKE SALE to benefit the PTA, 1220 Noe St. 695-5675.

**Nov. 8:** New College of California School of Law sponsors a workshop on how to present a case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT. 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

**Nov. 8-Dec. 13:** Paula Benton leads a six-week class, "BEADWORK Jewelry," including beadmaking. 7-8 pm. Artery, 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

**Nov. 9:** A PANEL DISCUSSION about packaging is led by Daniel Imhoff, author of *Paper or Plastic: Searching for Solu-*

*tions to an Overpackaged World*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

**Nov. 10:** St. Luke's Hospital's 54th annual MUSÉE DE NOEL features a silent auction, fashion show, luncheon, and music by Dr. Marc Snyder and the ER Jazz Band, to benefit the creation of a pediatric treatment room in the Emergency Department. 10:30 am. Palace Hotel, Market & New Montgomery. 641-6490.

**Nov. 10, 17, 22 & 29:** Natural Resources offers a CHILDBIRTH PREPARATION class from 7 to 9:30 pm. 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**Nov. 11-18:** NAJIB JOE HAKIM is one of the photographers exhibiting in "Introspection: Public vs. Private," at the Space Gallery. Opening reception Nov. 11; closing reception Nov. 18; both, 7-11 pm. 1411 Polk St. 674-1997.

**Nov. 12:** The AUTUMN ART FAIR at Gallery Sanchez features original arts and crafts to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry's building fund. 10 am-4 pm. 282-2317 or [phoebemc44@comcast.net](mailto:phoebemc44@comcast.net).

**Nov. 12:** "Squeeze King" Clark Cole performs waltzes, polkas, and sing-along faves on his 120-bass PIANO ACCORDION. 10:30 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 24th Street between Sanchez & Vicksburg. 695-9299.

**Nov. 12:** "Meet the DOULA" at Natural Resources, an ongoing event the second Saturday of the month. 2-4 pm. 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

**Nov. 12:** Cascada de Flores plays Mexican and CUBAN MUSIC from the early 1900s on traditional instruments. 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



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# Noe Valley Faces



joe@JaffaOrangePhoto.com

**M**aster Hong Wang, 41, is a teacher and healer whose practice is based on traditional Chinese and Tibetan medicine. He uses the tea ceremony to help pupils become more aware of themselves. On the wall of his studio on 27th Street, a handwritten statement of purpose reads: "To first heal ourselves and family, and unite our friends into a community."

Wang has lived in Noe Valley on and off for 10 years, with his wife Rachel and their three children, whom he describes as "three rays of light." Indeed, each is named for light: 6-year-old son A'Noah ("and the rainbow"); 3-year-old son Aladdin ("light of religion" in Arabic); and 1-year-old daughter Aura. They share their home

with two older generations of Rachel's family: her mother Lenore Long and grandmother Trilby James, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Master Wang comes from Tengchong, a town in the Yunnan province in southwest China bordering Burma and Tibet. He taught Chinese medicine in Beijing, and it was there that he met Rachel. He returns to Tengchong every year to visit family.

In his one-on-one consultations in Noe Valley, Wang emphasizes yoga, nutrition, and meditation. To serve more clients, he will be opening a health center at 14th and Shotwell streets in December. Though undecided on a name for the center, Wang plans to offer authentic aged teas from Yunnan and younger teas from old tea trees.

**Photo and text by Najib Joe Hakim**





Photo by Beverly Sharp

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## Group Promotes Social Justice in Noe Valley

By Liz Highleyman

If you believe "think globally, act locally" is a good prescription for change, a new neighborhood group may be right up your alley.

Noe Valleyans for Community and Social Justice (NVCSJ), formed this past April, grew out of a series of events: the successful campaign to save Cover to Cover bookstore, the creation of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, and the ongoing effort to win fair treatment for the terminated employees of the long-shuttered Real Food health food store.

"Noe Valley has a long progressive heritage, and we want to build on that," says Elizabeth Street resident Peter Gabel, who spearheaded the group.

While some might not see affluent Noe Valley as ground zero for social justice work, Gabel hopes that activist-minded residents will come to view the neighborhood as an important starting point.

"During the Bush years, many people feel isolated and unable to take positive action," says Gabel. "This effort is not

something so abstract as the whole country, where people feel powerless, but focuses on making positive changes in our own neighborhood."

About a dozen members have big plans in the works, including helping students and teachers at James Lick Middle School create an organic garden. According to NVCSJ member Judith Levy-Sender, a garden would not only teach kids how to grow their own healthy food and encourage environmental awareness, but would also foster closer bonds between the students and the community.

"The garden is a way of bringing people together," says Levy-Sender, who with husband and fellow group member Ramon Sender, is creator of the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry.

NVCSJ is also working on an educational campaign to promote the "No Sweat" anti-sweatshop ordinance recently passed by the Board of Supervisors and endorsed

by Mayor Gavin Newsom. "We want people to think about what we're buying and selling in our neighborhood, out of concern for the humanity of the people who make the clothes we wear and the food we eat," Gabel explains.

Other plans include promoting fair trade and patronage of locally owned businesses, encouraging sound ecological practices such as composting and bicycling, holding a community-wide art project, and providing support for Noe Valley's homeless population. The group recently co-sponsored a fundraiser at Bliss Bar to help with rebuilding efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

NVCSJ regards itself as complementary to existing neighborhood groups such as the residents group Friends of Noe Valley, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, and the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

"I see all these groups as working in

tandem with each other," says Levy-Sender, who also serves on the membership committee of the Democratic Club. "We want new businesses and residents to be aware of the concerns people have about humanistic solutions. Our focus is both philosophical and practical: This is our daily bread—how are we going to share it and make sure we're all taken care of?"

The progressive group is confident that others will pick up its banner.

"People long to connect," says Gabel. "They want a meaningful life, not just a pleasant life. There is more to life than economic security." □

*Noe Valleyans for Community and Social Justice meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. The next meeting is Nov. 2. To find out more about the group, call Peter Gabel at 282-7197 or e-mail pgabel@newcollege.edu.*

### Got News?

Are you holding a food drive? Selling your crafts at a holiday fair? Staging a local play or concert? Get the word out. Send your press release to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, S.F., CA 94114. Better yet, e-mail [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com). Please include a phone number. Thanks.



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# STORE TREK

By Laura McHale Holland

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a ballet and tap dance school on Castro Street and an acupuncture and physical therapy clinic on Church Street.

**CALLIOPE DANCE STUDIO**  
1414 Castro Street between Jersey  
and 25th streets  
415-425-6848  
[www.dancecalliope.com](http://www.dancecalliope.com)

Kids have been cavorting at 1414 Castro Street since August, when Kelleé Blanchard revamped the space and opened Calliope Dance Studio, a school offering a variety of dance classes for boys and girls—and a few for teens and adults as well.

Blanchard used to own a dance studio in Oregon, where she grew up and went to college. “I always thought if I opened another studio, Noe Valley is where I’d want to do it. I like the community feeling of the neighborhood,” she says. “Also, this space is close enough to 24th Street so it’s easy for parents to just drop off their kids and run errands, but it’s far enough so it’s not so busy right in front, and it’s safe for the kids.”

To prepare for her new students, Blanchard installed mirrors on the lavender walls (left behind by Lisa Violette when the boutique moved to 24th Street), buffed up the wood-like laminate floors, installed ballet bars, and decorated everywhere with pictures of her former students dancing and clowning around.

“My philosophy is that anyone can dance, and it should be for fun. So we’re there to learn, but we’re also there to have a really good time,” she says. “One of my best compliments came from an eight-year-old who was watching a video from one of our recitals, and she said, ‘Look Grandma, Kelleé lets chubby kids dance, too!’ That kind of broke my heart because in this society our image of a ballerina is a Balanchine ballerina, which is long and thin, but we’re not all built that way, and even if we’re not, we can still be dancers.”

Classes are held all day, Monday through Friday, and last from 45 minutes to two hours. Preschoolers come in the



Calliope Studio owner Kelleé Blanchard demonstrates for ballerinas Sophia Riordan, Sirisuati Young, Julia Zweifach, Kaela Mandler, and Amelia Bishop.

morning; older children in the afternoon. Teens and adults attend classes in the evening. Three- to 8-year-olds can choose a combination of creative movement and tap, or ballet and tap. Five- to 8-year-olds also can take “street dance” and tap. Older students can enroll in ballet and jazz/modern classes.

Most students attend one class per week, for a monthly charge of \$60. Classes are small—they hold up to six students for preschoolers, up to 12 for older students.

Blanchard also offers private lessons for children and adults, and sometimes teaches couples preparing for wedding-day dancing. She encourages children to stay in class throughout the school year so they can participate in the year-end recital.

“In all classes, even the ballet classes, we use a lot of imagination and play, so we do learn the basic ballet steps, but we also dance out stories or poems and things like that. It’s definitely different than a traditional ballet school,” says Blanchard, who walks to work from her home near Castro and Duboce streets and pulls her hair back into a ponytail, not into a bun, for class. “My students wear any kind of outfit they can come up with, as long as it’s appropriate for dancing. One little girl came to class in a candy-corn hat the other day, which I thought was hilarious. It was polar-fleece and soft, so I said, ‘Go ahead. You can wear it.’”

For more information, call 425-6848. A full class schedule is available at [www.dancecalliope.com](http://www.dancecalliope.com).

**PURPLE IRIS HEALING CENTER**  
1404 Church Street, at 26th Street  
415-642-7442  
[www.purpleiris.net](http://www.purpleiris.net)

The Purple Iris Healing Center is located one step off the bustling Church Street sidewalk, but the clinic’s owners hope their visitors will feel miles away from the stresses of urban life. Opened in April by licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist Jill Sweringen and her partner Barbara Schoeffel, a physical therapist, the center has three private treatment rooms and a waiting room where clients can sip tea and admire the plants in the window while they wait for treatments in acupuncture, traditional Chinese herbal medicine, massage, and physical therapy.

The center is open Monday through Friday, by appointment—with one exception. “Every Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., I have drop-in hours for our auricular acupuncture clinic,” says Sweringen. “There’s a microsystem in the ear, meaning that all parts of the body are represented within the ear, and I can address almost any condition through just ear acupuncture.”



Jill Sweringen (left) and Barbara Schoeffel offer acupuncture and physical therapy at Purple Iris Healing Center on Church Street.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

The auricular clinic fee is \$10. “The interview part is private, but once you have your ear needles in, you’re sitting in a healing environment, with soft music, but it’s not a private room. It’s a great way

to treat quite a few people in a short period of time. People are usually there from half an hour to 40 minutes, and there’s a sort of community that builds within the clientele that comes every week,” says Sweringen, who works at the clinic full-time. Schoeffel maintains an outside physical therapy position and works part-time at the healing center.

Private acupuncture treatments last one hour and cost \$75 for the first session and \$65 for follow-up sessions. Sometimes the sessions include “cupping,” a technique used to flush toxins from the body. “Typically, it’s done on a person’s back, and I use a circular glass cup,” says Sweringen. “It’s very thick glass, and I use a flaming cotton ball to create the suction within the cup.”

Another of Sweringen’s specialties is something called facial rejuvenation acupuncture. “It addresses not only the more pressing cosmetic issues, whether you’re trying to reduce fine lines or improve the muscle tone in the face, but also more constitutional health issues,” she notes. Sessions cost \$100, last about an hour and 15 minutes, and can include herbal face masks, needling techniques, and microcurrent—a form of gentle electrical stimulation.

Zen Shiatsu massage, done by Schoeffel, is \$85 for an hour and 15 minutes. “It’s actually done on a mat on the floor, and it’s done fully clothed, just loose clothing, because I work through the meridians of the body with gentle pressure and different touches to promote energy balance,” says Schoeffel.

Purple Iris also offers the services of Bette Briggs, who does Esalen massage.

Both Schoeffel and Sweringen do physical therapy, which costs \$85 for an initial evaluation and \$65 for follow-up. “We don’t have a full P.T. gym, so if somebody was hoping for rehab in the traditional sense from surgery, we would probably have to refer them out for that,” says Schoeffel. “We treat musculoskeletal problems—any kind of body pain—neck, back, knee, leg, headaches. Or if somebody’s just plain out of condition, they can get a program for that.”

Purple Iris Healing Center is at 1404 Church Street near 26th Street, and on the web at [www.purpleiris.net](http://www.purpleiris.net). For more information or appointments, call 642-7442.

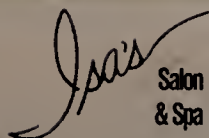


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## More Readers



Noe Valley residents **L. Brandon Espinosa** (left) and **Carlos Gonzalez** checked the ads in their hometown paper while on a shopping spree weekend in the Big Apple.

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## International Voice Report

One step behind music is reading as a force to achieve peace and understanding. Thanks, Noe Valleyans, for doing your part. If you want to join the ranks of the communicators you see on this page, you'll find it's easy. You just need a photo print, an envelope, and a 37-cent stamp. Send mail to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attention: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or if you have Internet access, you can always e-mail photos to [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com).

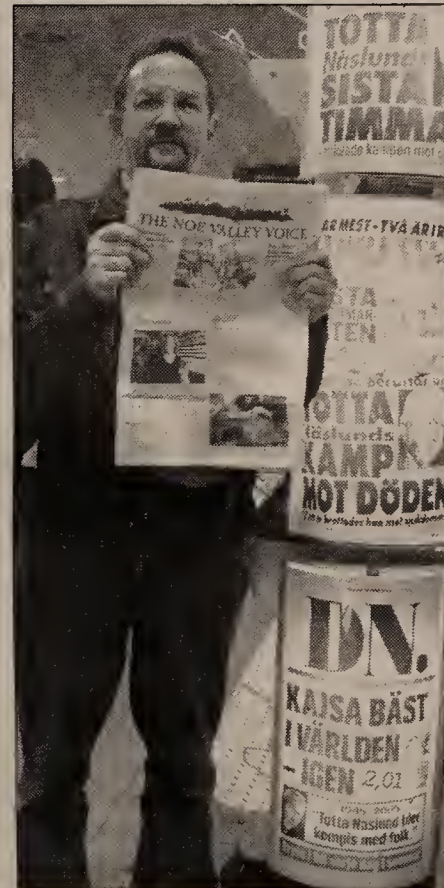
The **Keene Family** called Noe Valley home for 13 years, but through 2006 they're residing in Paris. A friend mailed them a couple copies of the *Voice*, and the result is the photo at right. The Eiffel Tower seen in the background is just down the street from their apartment. From left to right are Yvonne, 6-year-old Alex, 8-year-old Austen, and Christopher Keene.



**Kim Anderson** was in Bangkok, Thailand, in August, visiting a friend who coached the Thai national rollerblading team.



**Simon and Ellen Pargeter** and son **Koby** visited England recently and took photos by the banks of the River Cam.



En route to his nephew's June wedding in Sweden, **John Bird** chose his hometown newspaper over other reading material available in the Stockholm train station.



Remember summer vacation reading? These youngsters were glad theirs took place in Oahu, Hawaii. From left to right, they are **Maya Makena Delaney Marullo Grossman**, **Aidan Fruth-Lembi**, and **Rebecca Nelson**.



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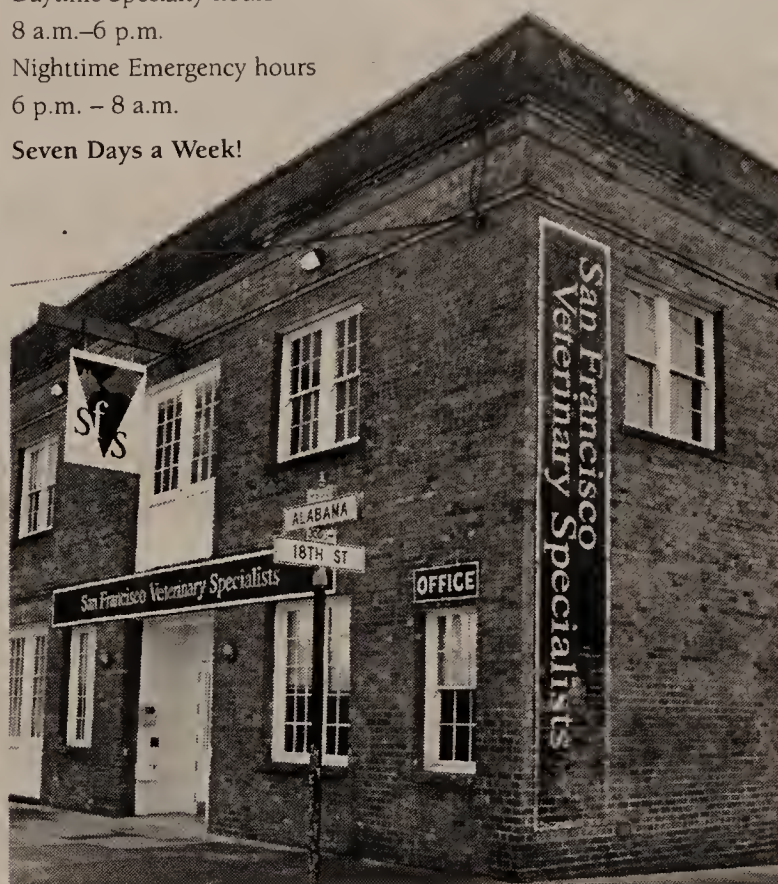
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# FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## The Alley Cats

*Before they moved to 21st Street in 1957, Florence and husband Leo Holub traded chicken dinners, dance steps, and babysitting with their neighbors on Kingston Avenue. This essay, penned by Florence, is an update of one printed in the September 1994 Voice.*

The year was 1948, 57 years ago, when we began living in a building my father owned on a short, narrow street named Kingston Avenue, located just a few doors from 30th Street between Mission and San Jose Avenue. While Leo went to his job at City Planning, I watched the kids and helped out at my father's paint store.

As soon as we got settled, our two young sons, Michael, 6, and Jan, 4, began to make friends with the other children on the block. The first they met was Frankie, who was hard to ignore because he raced up and down the alley on his little chrome-covered bike, making rasping motor sounds and screeching at the top of his lungs.

Frankie, who was a little older than our kids, 8 or 9 perhaps, proved to be a good-natured, extremely bright child, blessed with overindulgent parents who denied him nothing. He possessed every imaginable toy, owned and operated a ham radio set, and played a shiny brass trumpet that he sometimes awakened us with early in the morning, playing reveille. This usually happened on a Sunday, so we would just grin at the din and roll over.

In time, we met Frankie's father, Frank Jewell, who owned a watch repair shop at the other end of Kingston on the corner of San Jose Avenue. Frank looked like a typical businessman in his suit and tie, but he actually had led quite a colorful life.

He had been born in the Southeast, an orphan of Native American ancestry, and joined the circus as a teenager, traveling from town to town as a tightrope walker on the high wire. That exciting career ended when World War II erupted and he joined the Army and sailed for Europe. Before the war was won, however, Frank was injured when an Army caisson (an ammunition wagon) rolled over his legs, and he was sent back home.

With his damaged feet, Frank couldn't return to the high wire, so he looked for a trade that didn't require much footwork. He found it in watchmaking, and, after completing his training, opened the shop on San Jose. He married his wife, Mary, and they had one son, Frankie, who provided much joy (and clamor) in their lives.

After linking up with Frankie, our boys met affable young Ray Torres, nicknamed "Doc," who lived just across the street. The boys became inseparable. And because Doc was an energetic organizer, he provided the stimulus for a lot of action.

First they formed a club, naming it coolly the Alley Cats, and then Michael printed "business cards" on Leo's manual printing press in the basement.

Next they set out to find a purpose for their organization, and decided that raising candy money seemed like a good

idea. But how to do it?

Since it was common knowledge that our paint store paid two cents apiece for gallon bottles to hold paint thinner, I was not surprised when the boys came in one day with a bottle in hand. I paid them and absentmindedly placed the bottle on the landing just outside the back door. (I was focused on the monthly store bookkeeping.)

In no time my train of thought was interrupted again by the three boys, who had returned with another bottle. I paid them again, put the bottle out back as before, and returned to the ledgers.

Soon they were back with yet another bottle, but before I could complete the third transaction, one of them asked almost pleadingly, "Aren't you ever going to catch on?" Only then did it dawn on me that those rascals had been bringing in the same bottle each time!

Their next undertaking was a theatrical production to be held in Doc's basement. They wrote a script, came up with costumes and a stage setting, and even allowed a girl to participate (horrors). After a number of rehearsals, they were ready to perform.

Fliers advertising the production were distributed, and the response, although mainly from neighbors and relatives, was impressive. The boys dispensed tickets at the door for a quarter, and when all of the folding chairs in

Doc's garage were occupied, the play commenced. The boys presented an original and "very scary" Halloween mystery, with a cast of ghosts and goblins and at least one witch (the girl). I can't remember the details, but I do recall the performance was a huge success.

After the show, Leo and I, along with another mother, Marge Jannson, stayed on to help clear the chairs and free the Torres' parking space. Doc's father (also named Ray Torres) put a Latin music record on the phonograph. Before long, with Ray's expert instruction, we were all doing the mambo and the samba with gusto! This kept up until midnight, when weariness finally sent us home to bed.

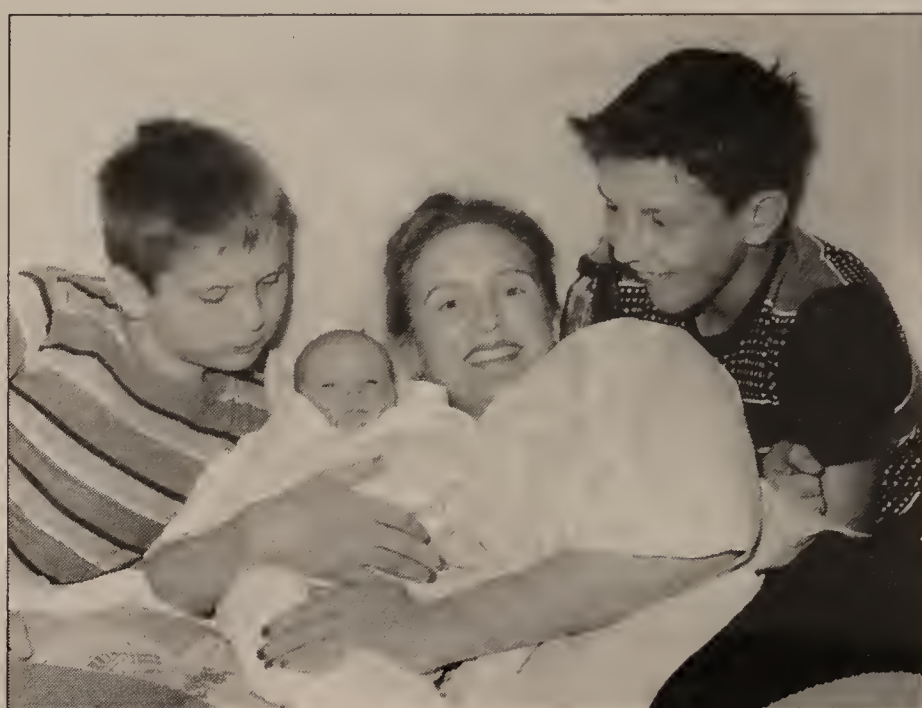
In the morning, Leo and I, awakened by Frankie's bugle call, arose and returned to finish the job we had deferred the night before. But we shirked our duty again, because Ray put on some more salsa music, and we couldn't resist having a few more dances. We parents were having so much fun that our neglected sons were a bit annoyed with us. After all, we weren't acting like their usual parents—we were acting like teenagers!

They aired this grievance by picketing out on the sidewalk, carrying signs that said, "We Protest!" and "We Want to Go to the Show!" We met their demand immediately, and they rushed off to the matinee at the Lyceum Theater, which was located where Safeway now stands on Mission near 29th Street.

With all this dancing and conversation, the adults were beginning to form warm and enduring relationships. That day, we learned that each of us had a chicken in the refrigerator for Sunday dinner, so Mrs. Torres, whom we all called Sis, suggested that we pool our fowls and have dinner together at their house.

Marge ran home to fetch her chicken, as did I. So when the boys came home from the show, we all sat down to a banquet on a long table in Sis' basement.

The Torres had worked long hours for



Baby Eric Holub spent his first day home from St. Mary's Help Hospital surrounded by his mom, Florence, and big brothers Jan and Michael (right), who later decided he was cute enough to be initiated into the Alley Cats club on Kingston Avenue. 1955 photo by Leo Holub

many years at their coffee shop, but since they had just sold it, they were eagerly embarking upon a new, more zestful social era. Sis and I became the best of friends and had much in common besides our children.

She taught me to cook spicy Mexican food like tacos, which were almost

unknown here at the time. And I tried to introduce her to a Scandinavian treat, pickled herring. The first time she tasted it, she savored it thoughtfully and ventured, "It tastes like raw fish to me." Which it was. (My man Leo has never been able to develop a taste for it either.)

Our friendship with the Torres family was a reciprocal one: whenever Doc's parents went out for the evening, he spent the night with us, and whenever we had an engagement, our boys were welcome to stay with them.

The years went by in this fashion until my father decided to close the paint store due to an impending birth in the family. Since I was busy shopping with Sis for baby clothes and otherwise preparing myself for motherhood, and since he was busy with his contracting business, neither of us had the energy to mind the store.

The nine months passed easily until the afternoon I went into labor. I called

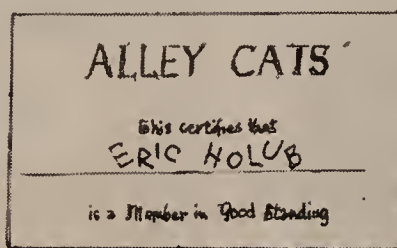
Sis, but when Doc answered the phone and said his mother was not at home, I blurted out in haste, "My water broke!" This young man was completely unaware of the nature of my emergency, so he innocently said, "Don't you think you should call a plumber?"

Fortunately at that moment, Frank Jewell was passing by our house, and he kindly drove me to Mary's Help Hospital, then located on Guerrero Street not far from Market. Three hours later, just before the dinner hour on Aug. 8, 1955, Eric Richard Holub came into the world.

He was perfect in every way except for one thing: whenever he was brought to his mother, he scrunched up his face in a most disagreeable manner. He also did this to the nurses whenever they disturbed his sleep, and to the photographer, who apologized profusely to me for the outcome of my baby's picture.

By the time we returned home, however, Eric had learned to make a happy, bemused expression, which made him the center of attention on Kingston Avenue.

Eric became such an integral part of the Kingston scene that he was given an honorary membership in the exclusive club, the Alley Cats. By the time he was 2, however, our rambunctious brood was bulging at the seams in that little house. So we migrated to a bigger house in Noe Valley, and have lived happily ever since. □



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**More Pets to Bless.** At the annual Blessing of the Animals at St. Philip the Apostle Church in October, Hurricane Katrina survivors Lucy (left photo, center) and her dog Pep chat with parishioners after their blessing by Father Tony LaTorre (in photo at right). The pastor attended to pets of all kinds, from hermit crabs to cats and canines. *Photos by Paula Whitehead*

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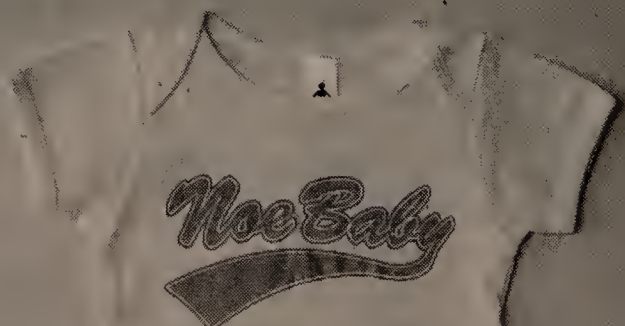
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## Noe Valley Kids

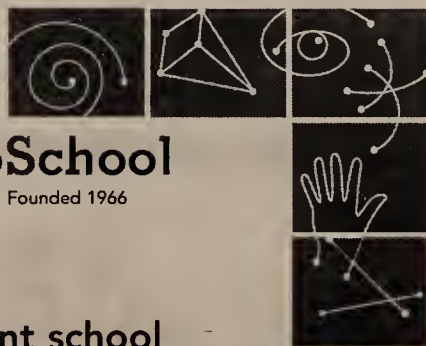
**Two Views of Sleeping Sam.** Young Sam O'Neil has spent half of his life, four months so far, in Noe Valley and seems quite comfortable on 24th Street, especially when in the company of his mom, Meg Shiffler.

*Photos by Pamela Gerard*

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# Noe Valley Voice

*Especially for Kids and Their Families*

Written and Illustrated by Laura McCloskey



Jose de Jesus Noe (1805-1862)

## The Earliest Settlers in Noe Valley

Before California—and Noe Valley within it—became a part of the United States, many people inhabited the land. Among the first were native Indian tribes called the Ohlone. The Ohlone people hunted and fished in the valleys and streams flowing into the bay. Next came explorers, soldiers, and missionaries from Europe. In 1776, the Spanish sailed into our waters and built a military camp called the Presidio. At the same time, they set up a mission church named San Francisco de Asis (after St. Francis of Assisi). It was near a lagoon they called *Nuestra Senora de los Dolores* (Our Lady of Sorrows). The church became known as Mission Dolores. In 1821, Spain granted Mexico the land we now call California, and Mexico ruled the area until the United States took control in 1846.

Many streets and buildings in Noe Valley are named after people from the Spanish era. For example, Sanchez Street is named for Jose Sanchez, a commander of the Presidio. Alvarado Street is named for Juan Bautista Alvarado, a Mexican governor of Alta (Upper) California. Also, Castro Street is named after General Jose Castro, an important officer in the Mexican army.

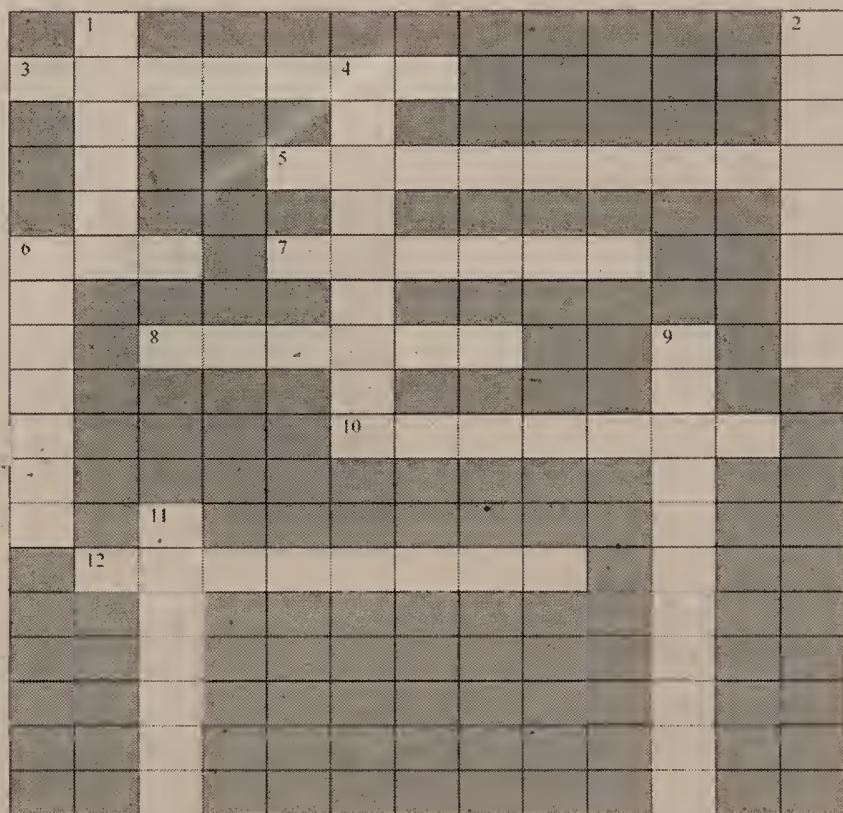
## Who Is Noe Valley Named After?

Noe Valley is named after Jose de Jesus Noe. He moved from Mexico to Alta California in 1834. Starting in 1840, Noe established his family in Yerba Buena (an older name for San Francisco), and in 1845 was granted more than 4,400 acres of land, which included what we now call Noe Valley. He needed the land for his growing number of cattle and sheep. Noe named the land Rancho San Miguel.

In 1842 and 1846, Noe served as the 12th and 16th *alcalde*, or mayor, when Mexico ruled San Francisco. Alcaldes performed many jobs, such as being the sheriff or the judge when crimes were committed. In 1846, when the U.S. army took over San Francisco, Noe retreated to Rancho San Miguel in hopes of avoiding arrest.

When the United States took control of California, it took Jose Noe over 10 years to get the U.S. government to recognize his ownership of Rancho San Miguel. During his fight for ownership, Noe started selling off parts of Rancho San Miguel. He eventually sold the whole ranch, including the part we now call Noe Valley.

## NAME THAT NOE STREET



**Directions:** Test your knowledge of Noe Valley history by completing this crossword puzzle. Each clue below should suggest the name of a street in Noe Valley. For more hints, look at the text and photos on this page. If you can't figure out some streets, the correct answers are upside down, below right.

### ACROSS

3. This street was named for a Presidio commander.
5. This street was named for a Civil War battle in Virginia.
6. This man's name appears all around our neighborhood. He was the last Mexican *alcalde* of San Francisco, as well as the owner of Rancho San Miguel.
7. Noe \_\_\_\_\_ is a fun place to live.
8. Gold miners might have yelled this word when they found a gold nugget. It's a Greek phrase meaning, "I have found it."
10. Brigadier General William \_\_\_\_\_, a Presidio commander after the Mexican-American War. This street has a popular haunted house on Halloween.
12. This street was named for a governor of Mexican California. His name also appears on a Noe Valley school.

### DOWN

1. This street was named for a well-known officer in the Mexican army. It used to have a cable car line on it.
2. This street might have been named after a leader who fought to end slavery. His first name was Frederick.
4. John M. Horner named this street for his wife.
6. This short street was possibly named after an early name for New York City.
9. This street was named for a Civil War battle in Tennessee.
11. This street was named for a speedy ship used for carrying merchandise.



John M. Horner, one of the first developers of Noe Valley

## Horner Who?

John Meirs Horner is the man responsible for creating the grid of streets in Noe Valley, as well as for naming most of the streets. He moved to San Francisco around 1846 and started a fruit and vegetable farm south of the

town. He became rich selling produce to the gold miners.

Horner and his brother William bought part of Rancho San Miguel from Jose Noe for \$200,000. With the intention of building homes there, Horner named the area Horner's Addition. Unfortunately, Horner went bankrupt soon after he bought the land. He sold off the land to builders, many of whom built the Victorian homes Noe Valley is well known for.

Twenty-third Street was originally named Horner Street, after John and William Horner. Elizabeth Street was named after Horner's wife Elizabeth.



## What Did This Building Used to Be?

Many of the buildings throughout Noe Valley were used for other purposes in the past.



The Rite Aid on 24th Street used to be the Palmer Theatre, where movies were shown. It also was the Surf Super Market for many years.



On the corner of 24th and Noe, there used to be a gas station. Now, there are apartments and a bank. There were also gas stations at 24th and Diamond, and at 24th and Church.



This building near the corner of Castro and Jersey used to be part of a large "barn" that housed the cable cars when they were not in use. For many years, it was a supermarket. Now it is a Walgreen's drugstore. A cable car ran on Castro Street until 1941.



Noe Valley once had four movie theaters. This building on the corner of Church and 28th streets is the last theater still intact. Instead of showing movies, it is used as a church.

**Special thanks to Bill Yemie and his book San Francisco's Noe Valley, and to the San Francisco History Center for access to these publications:** Jose de Jesus Noe by Mae Silver; California and Californians by Rockwell D. Hunt; "Noe and Eureka Valleys," by Mary Duenwald, in Pacific; A Victorian Walk in Noe Valley by Judith Waldhorn; and Victorians of Noe and Eureka Valleys, by Rita Georg.

Answers to Crossword: Across: 3. Sanchez, 5. Chattanooga, 11. Clipper  
Down: 1. Douglas, 4. Elizabeth, 6. Newburg, 10. Hoffman, 12. Alvarado, 2. Down: 1. Castro, 5. Vicksburg, 6. Noe, 7. Valley, 8. Eureka, 9. Sanchez.





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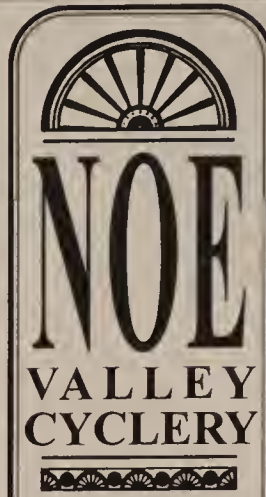
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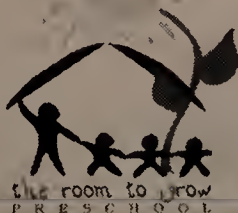
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# SCHOOL REPORT

James Lick is the headliner in this month's School Report.

## JAMES LICK

### Student Newspaper Debuts

A new James Lick newspaper, initiated and produced by students, debuted in October following months of preparation. The budding journalists began by submitting a proposal for the project last spring, and then each applicant wrote an essay to qualify for the program. This fall, students have been working after school two afternoons each week to produce the new broadsheet. PTA president Heidi Anderson, who is herself a journalist, is providing training for the students in investigation, interviewing, writing, and editing skills. A contest to name the new publication is featured in the first edition.

This venture is just one facet of James Lick's extensive after-school program. Additional offerings include creative writing, yearbook, fencing, hip-hop dance, seasonal sports, and Carnaval dancing and drumming. In addition, young artists can choose between portfolio preparation (for students interested in applying to the district's School of the Arts) and comic art.

### Merchant-Community Alliance Meeting Set

A dozen student ambassadors met with peer resources teacher Sarah Jones to plan the first Merchant-Community Alliance meeting of the year on Monday, Nov. 14, from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. The alliance was formed to promote positive relationships between students and the surrounding community. All merchants, neighbors, and other members of the Noe Valley community who are interested in supporting the school are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

### Student Body Officers Elected

Newly elected student body officers Jessica Mauldin, president; Namezi Torrence, vice president; and Mathjs Arens, treasurer, presided over the year's first student council meeting on Oct. 19. Congratulations to these new leaders, and to all who ran for office or voted in the election.

### Clean Sweep

Families and neighbors are invited to join us for our next cleanup and beautification day on Saturday, Nov. 5. James Lick families will be sweeping and weeding the sidewalks around the school. We love these chances to spiff up the school area and meet our good neighbors!

### Election Day Bake Sale

Members of the PTA are warming up their ovens for a bake sale on Tuesday, Nov. 8. If your polling site is at James Lick—or even if it isn't—look for home-baked pumpkin and banana breads, cookies, and muffins, and hot coffee on sale to benefit the school's PTA. Cole Hardware is donating bottled water, and it is rumored that a few tamales might be for sale, too!

### New Venue Sought for Auction

Having outgrown the beautiful Noe Valley Ministry, the PTA is looking for a larger space to hold our annual Silent Auction, on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006. A nice place in the Mis-

sion would be preferred, to make it easier for non-driving families to attend. Please call the school office (695-5675) and leave a message for the PTA if you have any suggestions.

**We Need:** Instruments for our new music classes; art materials for the after-school activities program.

**Tours of James Lick Middle School** for prospective families continue on Thursday mornings through Feb. 6, 2006. Please come to Room 107 at 9 a.m. You will have the opportunity to meet current Lick families, see the school, and meet with our principal. E-mail [Sandra@ppssf.org](mailto:Sandra@ppssf.org) to confirm or to arrange another time.

**Keeping in Touch:** Call the school at 695-5675; leave a message at 436-0349; or drop by the school at 1220 Noe Street at Clipper. Thank you for sharing your ideas, talents, enthusiasm, and support for our public schools.

—Sue Cattoche

## ALVARADO

### PTA Meetings Draw Crowds

The October PTA meeting at Alvarado Elementary School again pulled in large numbers as we broke out into committee groups and formulated school year plans for the Gardening, Literacy, Arts, English Learners, and other committees.

### Work Day Is Saturday, Nov. 5

Want to help us clean a classroom, do minor repairs, paint, garden, photocopy, or create bulletin boards? Join us for a few hours or the whole day on Saturday, Nov. 5. Snacks, lunch, and child care will be provided. There is no need to call ahead; just drop by 625 Douglass Street (between 22nd and 23rd) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *We can use all the help we can get!*

### More Ways to Help

- Come help in the library. You can read to classes, reshelve books, or check in books that have been returned.
- Help repaint our mural. Contact Paul Lanier through the main school number: 695-5695.

### The Rainbow Above Safeway

Sign up with E-Script when you shop at Safeway. This is an easy process, and you can get more information by contacting the school office at 695-5695.

If you are a Rainbow Grocery shopper, up to 10 percent of your purchase will go to Alvarado if you pre-purchase Rainbow scrip before shopping. Contact Carin Remstedt at 309-8115 or [remstedt@pacbell.net](mailto:remstedt@pacbell.net).

### Dates to Remember

**School Tours** are available on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m., from now through Jan. 10, 2006. Please make a reservation by calling 695-5695.

**PTA Meetings** are at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. The Nov. 1 meeting will focus on middle schools, with representatives from various San Francisco middle schools providing information to prospective students and their families.

On Dec. 6, we will hold a **Community Potluck** featuring arts and crafts to make or purchase.

For more information, contact Lisa Barry, volunteer coordinator, at [lisa4304@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa4304@yahoo.com) or 467-4748. The Alvarado School web site in English and Spanish includes calendar information and much more: [www.alvarado.school.net](http://www.alvarado.school.net).

—Lisa Barry.

## FAIRMOUNT

### The Party Next Door

As mentioned in last month's *Voice*, community philanthropist Bob Pritikin is donating use of his Chenery Street mansion to the Fairmount School community for a Sunday afternoon fundraising party. Jorge Santana will be the featured performer at the festive event, scheduled for Nov. 20 from noon to 5 p.m. The Pritikin mansion is at 47 Chenery Street above 30th Street.

### Running Partners Take Off for Year 2

Fairmount's Running Partners club initiated its second year with more than 30 second- to fifth-graders lacing up their running shoes on Monday and Wednesday afternoons after school. The kids are learning various running techniques as well as looking forward to running in different venues.

Volunteer coach and Fairmount parent Matt Patchell—who, by the way, plans to compete in the November New York Marathon—sees running as an ideal sport for kids. "Unlike many other youth sports, running requires nothing but a pair of shoes and a good attitude," he points out. As for the Fairmount joggers, "Our athletes are large and small, slow and fast, and come from different cultures, but they all work hard, have fun, and feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the season."

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

**Alvarado Elementary School**  
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado  
415-695-5695  
Clementina Durón, Principal

**James Lick Middle School**  
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street  
415-695-5675 or 415-436-0349  
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal

**Fairmount Elementary School**  
65 Chenery Street at Randall  
415-695-5669  
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal

Second-grader Ruary Girling agrees: "I would get tired, but in the middle felt okay, and then I felt really good at the end." Another runner with a positive attitude is fourth-grader Rebecca Hughes. She says, "I like to run. I feel hot and tired when I'm done, but I feel good."

The free program is a pilot project of the San Francisco Road Runners, which was founded with financial and program support from the New York Road Runners Foundation.

### Hands on Science Rockets PTA Meeting

October's PTA meeting featured more than the usual announcements and updates. At the conclusion of the brief business meeting, two teachers from Hands on Science performed experiments for the assembled parents and students. One experiment used heated air to create a vacuum that sucked an egg right through a narrow bottle opening.

But the highlight of the evening involved students making rockets and jumping on large plastic soda bottles to launch them off the steps outside the cafeteria into the night air and the playground below. Students chanted the rocket builders' names and counted down, "Five, four, three, two, one, blast off!" for the liftoff of dozens of rockets, which were recovered by ground-crew kids who noted how long and in what direction they had flown.

Parent Jennifer Knudsen took the lead in bringing the program to the school. Science will continue to be an academic focus this year, says Fairmount Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort.

### Fairmount Tours Start in November

Join interested parents for a weekly school tour every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Contact the school at 695-5669 for information and reservations, or just show up to tour the classrooms and meet the principal. Tours continue through the district's January enrollment deadline.

—Tom Ruiz

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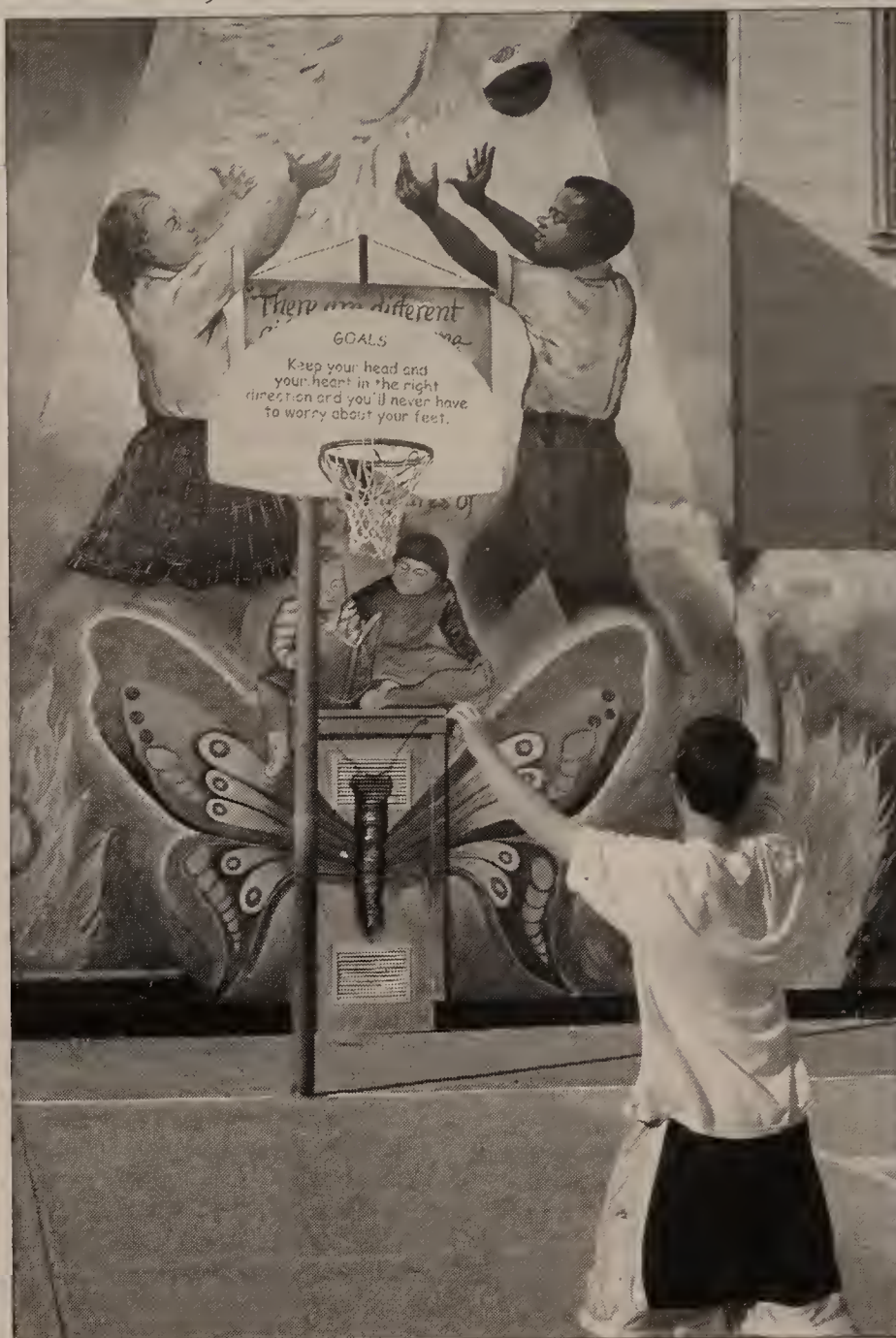
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**Free Throws.** A teenager takes some practice shots on the courts behind St. Paul's School on a sunny Sunday afternoon.  
Photo by Jack Tipple

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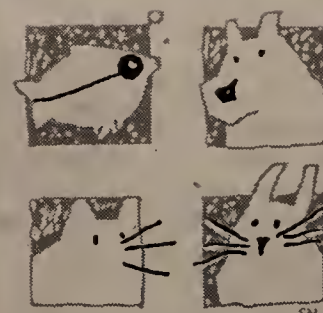
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## BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's book list, chosen by Noe Valley librarian Carol Small and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske, features Jack Kerouac's early journals, a history of Hetch Hetchy, and a story about a boy who objects to playing war. To find out which books are available, go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org), call 355-5707, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street. Library hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Note: The Noe Valley Library may be closing for renovation in late November. Call the library at 355-5707 or the Chief of Branches office at 557-4353 for the latest information.

### Adult Fiction

- ◆ A Caucasian boy growing up in primitive conditions in a remote Alaskan sod igloo faces discrimination in an Inupiak village in *Ordinary Wolves* by Seth Kantner.
- ◆ Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Philip Caputo's fictional thriller *Acts of Faith* centers on three Americans involved in relief efforts during the Sudanese wars of the '80s.
- ◆ "Rural noir characters struggle with circumstance" in *Bad Dirt: Wyoming Stories 2*, by Annie Proulx, author of *The Shipping News*.
- ◆ A New York psychoanalyst dredges up a sticky past when he attends a college reunion, in *Envy* by Kathryn Harrison.

### Adult Nonfiction

- ◆ In 1941 and '42, Carson McCullers, W.H. Auden, Benjamin Britten, Jane and Paul Bowles, and Gypsy Rose Lee lived in the same Brooklyn apartment building, *February House*; author Sherrill Tippins describes the circumstances.
- ◆ Robert W. Righter relates the history of California's water supply in *The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*.
- ◆ Jack Kerouac wrote his 1947-54 journals, compiled in *Windblown World*, during his struggle to finish his first novel, *The Town and the City*.
- ◆ *Naked Airport: A Cultural History of the World's Most Revolutionary Structure*, by Alastair Gordon, describes how the airport has changed our sense of time and distance, and altered how cities are built.

### Children's Fiction

- ◆ A toddler likes to prance around with no clothes on and to resist Mom's directives in *This Is the Baby*, written by Candace Fleming and illustrated by Maggie Smith. *Ages 1 to 3.*
- ◆ A class pet loves hearing a story read aloud and discovers several other reasons to visit the school library in Mary Ann Fraser's *I.Q. Goes to the Library*. *Ages 5 to 7.*
- ◆ Carole Lexa Schaefer shows how a young boy on a South Pacific island, eager to return to his village in time to hear stories, starts to become a storyteller himself in *The Biggest Soap*, illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen. *Ages 5 to 7.*

### Children's Fiction (cont'd)

- ◆ In *Don't Forget to Come Back!* author Robie H. Harris and illustrator Harry Bliss show that even while making dire predictions about the evening to come, a child in the company of a good babysitter can have fun and welcome her parents joyfully on their return. *Ages 3 to 6.*
- ◆ Because the puppet play "Saint George and the Dragon" cannot be performed without the missing Saint George puppet, the magician's assistant must go search for it in the Land of Story, in *The Magician's Boy* by Susan Cooper. *Ages 6 to 9.*
- ◆ In *Playing War* by author Kathy Beckwith and illustrator Lea Lyon, a new boy in the neighborhood helps a group of children rethink the game they've been playing. *Ages 8 to 10.*
- ◆ *On Her Way* is a collection of short stories edited by Sandy Asher, in which each story has a strong female narrator who figures out how to navigate her way through a challenging situation. *Ages 10 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

- ◆ Much information relating to horses—taking care of them, riding them, the different breeds, and their history—is included in Jackie Budd's *World of Horses*. *Ages 7 to 11.*



## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Saturday Lapsits

- ◆ The library's *lapsits* for infants, toddlers, and their parents feature stories, songs, and finger plays on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 10:30 a.m.

### Preschool Story Time and Films

- ◆ Children ages 2 to 5 are invited to attend a *preschool story time* at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 8, and 29. *Films* will be shown at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

*Note: The Jersey Street library is scheduled to close for a two-year renovation starting in November. Call the library at 355-5707 or the Chief of Branches office at 557-4353 for updated information.*

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EVENTS

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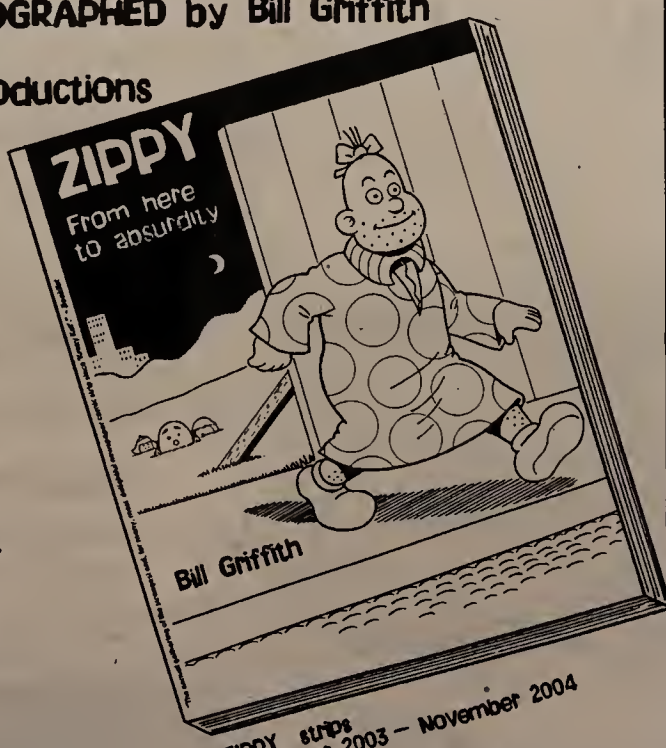


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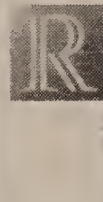
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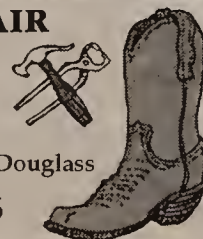
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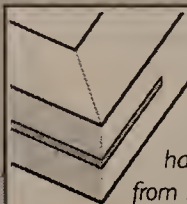
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The next *Voice* will be the December 2005/January 2006 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Dec. 2. **The deadline for Class Ads is Nov. 15.** The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper edition and then displayed for one month on our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

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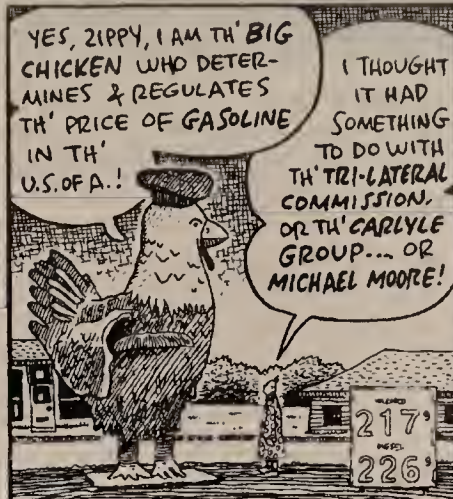
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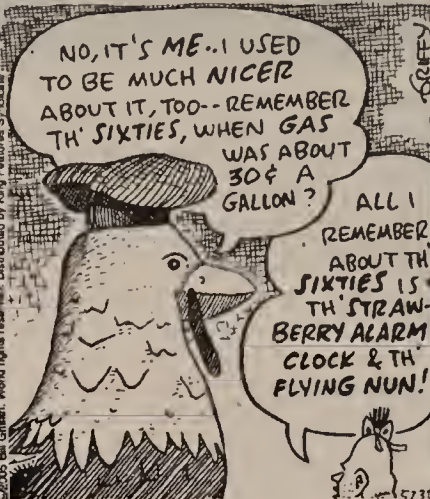
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Noe Is Some Where

By Mazook

INDIAN SUMMER in Noe Valley was sure short. It started at the very end of September and ended by the last week of October, with intermittent days of winter throughout our little heat wave. Soon it will be "Happy Holidays" and hats and horns, and trying to remember to write a 6 instead of a 5.

I hope you all inaugurated the holiday season by attending the Oct. 22 Noe Valley Harvest Festival (see pages 1 and 21). The fog lifted nicely for the fest—the first street fair in this valley since 1984. Organized primarily by the Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Merchants Association, the event proved to be tons of fun and very Noe Valley. The smallish magnitude of the festival, from Church to Sanchez on 24th Street, definitely seemed neighborhood-appropriate. There were lots of kids and dogs on the scene, many of them dressed in their Halloween costumes. The music was great, and the acoustics made the valley sound like the Hollywood Bowl. All in all, it was a well-organized, well-orchestrated, and well-attended affair. The only casualties were a couple of people reportedly rear-ended by strollers.

A big thanks to the local businesses who gave monetary support, especially Sterling Bank (thanks for the stage), Wells Fargo Bank (thanks for the stagecoach),

Zephyr Real Estate, Walgreen's, B.J. Droubi, Pasta Pomodoro, Forbeadin', Tully's, PlumpJack, Firefly, Lovejoy's, and Lisa Violette Designs.

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation is also awarding medals of honor to the five fabulous people who were key to making the Harvest Fest run so smoothly: Merchants Association vice president Donna Davis of Forbeadin'; Mary Teahan-Duffy of Glencar Graphics; Paula Benton, owner of Artery; Friends of Noe Valley president Richard May, and finally, by all accounts the truly dedicated, tireless, go-to person without whom the fair would not have happened: Sara Butz. Butz is also a newly elected vice president of Friends of Noe Valley.

Volunteerism aside, the tab for putting on the festival was around \$21,000.



**Going Courting:** A hot day drew hundreds to a Sept. 10 concert and benefit for Noe Courts park, co-sponsored by Friends of Noe Courts and the San Francisco Parks Trust. Along with two other local bands, the band Playdate, featuring Sharon Gillenwater on vocals, Jimmy Goetz on bass, Seth Affoumado on drums, and Rich Burns on guitar, rocked the crowd with its eclectic covers of "Mother's Little Helper," "Good Ship Lollipop," and the theme from *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. The event netted \$1,500 and lots of enthusiasm for a future renovation of the small park, located at 24th and Douglass streets.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Hopefully, that was within budget.

☎ ☎ ☎

**COURT AND PARK:** The Friends of Noe Courts Park were able to raise almost \$1,500 in donations and food and raffle ticket sales at a Sept. 10 free concert at Noe Courts, reports Friends co-chair Eden Halbert.

"I would estimate that about 300 people showed up at the concert, which was free, and many of them wanted to support our efforts. No doubt they really enjoyed the three bands, who all agreed to play a set at no charge," says Halbert.

All were very local bands—the Jukes from Noe Valley doing blues, the pop-rock Playdate, also from Noe Valley, and of course, Dixieland Dykes + 3, who played some great instrumentals.

"We had a lot of help from the Animal Company, too," says Halbert.

Friends of Noe Courts, which was founded by Halbert and Laura Norman, has been actively working with the city's Rec and Park Department and other groups to gather funds for renovation of the park, at 24th and Douglass streets. They'd especially like a new fence around the toddler playground and some better play structures.

If you're interested in getting your name on their mailing list and/or making a donation (it's tax-deductible), e-mail [noecourts@gmail.com](mailto:noecourts@gmail.com). I wonder how much a new outhouse costs.

☎ ☎ ☎

**YOU'RE ADOPTED:** On Sept. 28, James Lick Middle School received a check from Wells Fargo Bank in the amount of \$11,000 at a breakfast ceremony at Everett Middle School. It was part of \$80,000 in grants awarded to 48 San Francisco public schools. Most other schools received mere thousand-dollar grants.

On hand that morning was Wells Fargo's Noe Valley branch manager, Robert Ashpole, who says he was delighted that Lick was chosen. The Wells Fargo employees formed teams and made recommendations for their "Adopt a School" program. Most of the grants included monies from "Adopt a School," says Ashpole, "which partners with other companies such as KNBR Radio and Amici's East Coast Pizza to assist the school in overcoming budget problems."

According to Ashpole, Wells Fargo has contributed more than \$4 million to Bay Area schools over the last year.

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**NEWS FROM THE GLEN:** Down south in Glen Park, scores of people showed up

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

at the BART station Oct. 15 for a thank-you ceremony for Congressman Tom Lantos. He was instrumental in getting \$3.5 million from the federal transportation budget for improvements to the Glen Park BART Station and surrounding intersections.

Our District 8 supervisor, Bevan Dufty, organized the event and introduced city planner AnMarie Rodgers as the "Goddess of Planning" for her three months of hard work, pulling together the draft plan for Glen Park. Representative Lantos then presented Rodgers with a congressional certificate, and noted, "After all my years in Congress, this is my first time to give a commendation to a goddess." Destination Bakery and Chenery Park Restaurant provided tasty light refreshments.

Meanwhile, Glen Park residents are still waiting to see what grocery store will open in the building currently under construction on Diamond near Chenery. As you all know, the Glen Park branch of the San Francisco Public Library will move into the second floor, and the new grocery will occupy the ground floor.

Since Bi-Rite Market pulled out of the deal to buy the space this past August, neighbors are skeptical they'll ever see a replacement for the supermarket that burned down more than five years ago (Glen Park's only big grocery).

Still, my spies tell me that talks are hot and heavy between the developer and Oakville Grocery, a market with stores in Napa Valley, Healdsburg, and Palo Alto.

☎ ☎ ☎

MARKET QUOTES regarding the fate

of our own Downtown supermarket, Bell Market, are still circulating in the neighborhood. The latest scoop, from sources who wish anonymity, is that Bell's parent, Ralphs (Kroger), is on the verge of selling 23 of its markets in Northern California. Twenty of them are rumored to be going to a large chain, and the rest to a high-end organic grocery chain.

Who's who and who gets what are open to speculation, but sources say there should be a public announcement by the first week in November. All the principals are staying mum, so it looks like it's a done deal.

At least we know it won't be a Wal-Mart...or a Home Depot, for that matter.

While we're on the food beat, reports have been coming in that workers are hammering away in the space formerly occupied by Mikeytom Market at Church and Day streets. A check with the building owner, who was contemplating selling the building, produced no news, however, except that he is not selling it but rather offering it for lease. He is asking two dollars a square foot for the 2,500 square feet of space plus basement.

☎ ☎ ☎

**THE DOOR SWINGS BOTH WAYS:** Open Door Yoga, on the corner of Castro and 25th streets, will close its doors forever at the end of November. Owner Lizzie Nichols says her five-year lease ran out and "it was a tough call—we were doing okay, but rents are high and competition is stiff. Since we opened five years ago, more than 25 new yoga studios have opened in San Francisco."

The Open Door space used to be Yoga Shala, which opened in 1997 and lasted about three years. Nichols, who started out as a student there, took over in May 2001, and has had a lot of neighborhood support for her efforts to maintain a full schedule of classes. (See Stephanie



**Won by the Bay:** Our favorite colt, Lost in the Fog, won his 10th race at Bay Meadows on Oct. 1, by about nine lengths. But the Voice went to press before we knew how he fared in the Belmont Stakes on Oct. 29.

Winners Circle photo by Bill Yenne

Levin's letter to the editor, page 9.)

Down the street at 1400 Castro, opening new doors is clothing designer Liz Terbolizard, former owner and operator of the Lit'l Lizards children's clothing shop on 24th Street. Terbolizard is teaming up with Noe Valley native Connie Walkershaw, who has been a clothing designer with her own label since 1986.

Their new space will serve as both a studio and a retail store, called Walkershaw Clothing. They also will be teaching sewing to kids and adults, as well as showcasing their latest designs. Like Terbolizard, Connie Walkershaw is juggling a lot of plates: she's a regular volunteer at Alvarado School, and she and her husband are also jazz musicians.

Closing the doors to her 24th Street boutique on Oct. 30—but not closing her business—is Teresa Gay. She is moving her 15-month-old women's clothing store, La Coterie Style Studio, from its retail space on 24th (next to Artsake) to online ordering at Lacoterie.com, which she will operate out of her 26th Street home.

"With the rent over \$3,000 a month for 800 square feet of retail space, I was just at the break-even point," explains Gay. "Retail business is hard enough, but I don't think we were getting enough foot traffic and people coming from outside the neighborhood. I can cut my overhead substantially by working out of my house. My family and friends are happy because they will be seeing a lot more of me, and I can still serve the clientele that I have developed."

Though her shop is moving off the main drag, Gay will continue her involvement with the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. As a vice president of the group, she is busy organizing a "Noel Stroll" on Thursday evening Dec. 10. The event will have Christmas carolers and school choirs serenading shoppers on 24th Street. "We are planning other surprises" as well, says Gay.

No word yet on who will be moving into her vacated storefront.

Oh, while we are talking doors, I should set the record straight on Indigo V. In the September Rumors column, I reported that Diane Barrett had closed her doors (at 4156 24th Street) to retail traffic and was focusing on doing arrangements for her corporate clients. Wrong.

"We have simply closed our doors to regular walk-in traffic so we can concentrate on our flower-arranging and deliveries," says Barrett, "and virtually none of our customers are corporations—they are just regular folks like you and I."

Barrett says that almost all of her customers phone in their orders (647-2116), which are then delivered as she is instructed, or else they can stop by the shop and pick up their flower arrangements.

☎ ☎ ☎

**WE'RE THERE:** In an effort to boost sales, a group of Downtown Noe Valley

merchants has convinced *Where* magazine to include a section on Noe Valley. *Where* is that magazine found in roughly 24,000 of the city's hotel rooms, placed there to guide tourists around the city. We are now identified by name on the famous centerfold map and have our own "Noe Valley Page" of advertisers. In fact, we are described as one of six "Stylish Streets" in the October issue.

*Where* goes on to call Noe "one of the city's favorite destinations for browsing in a small-town atmosphere. The five-block shopping corridor between Dolores and Diamond streets is easily accessible via Muni's J-Church rail line, and offers everything from children's apparel to runway styles in a neighborhood replete with charming cafes and restaurants."

FYI, each of the participating merchants has taken out an ad in the mag, to the tune of about \$200 per month. That will always get the attention of magazine publishers.

☎ ☎ ☎

**SCREENING ROOM:** Noe Valley filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt's program of nine shorts, "Matters of Life and Death," is being featured close to home: from Nov. 11 to 17 at the Roxie Cinema on 16th Street, and from Nov. 18 to 24 at the Smith Rafael Film Center in Downtown San Rafael (which is a fantastic venue). The program is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, which recently gave Rosenblatt its first Freedom of Expression Award.

Rosenblatt has been winning awards for his films for the past 20 years, and this is a unique opportunity to see a cinematic festival of his stuff. Mark your calendars.

☎ ☎ ☎

**THOROUGHbred AND BUTTER:** Lost in the Fog T-shirts have been popping up on the streets of Noe Valley. Bay Meadows designated a special day for our local hero last month, and our favorite colt is running in the Breeders Cup on Oct. 29 in New York, right after the Voice goes to press. Win, lose, or draw, next month we will have the results of the race, along with some firsthand accounts by Lost in the Fog's owner, Noe Valley native Harry Aleo.

Before I go, I hope you all stop for a moment on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month and remember why Nov. 11 is a national holiday. It was at that moment in 1918 that an armistice was signed in a railcar in a forest in France, an armistice that ended World War I, the war that was going to end all wars.

This Armistice Day (Veterans Day), perhaps we could start plans for an armistice in our most recent war. That's 30, folks.

□

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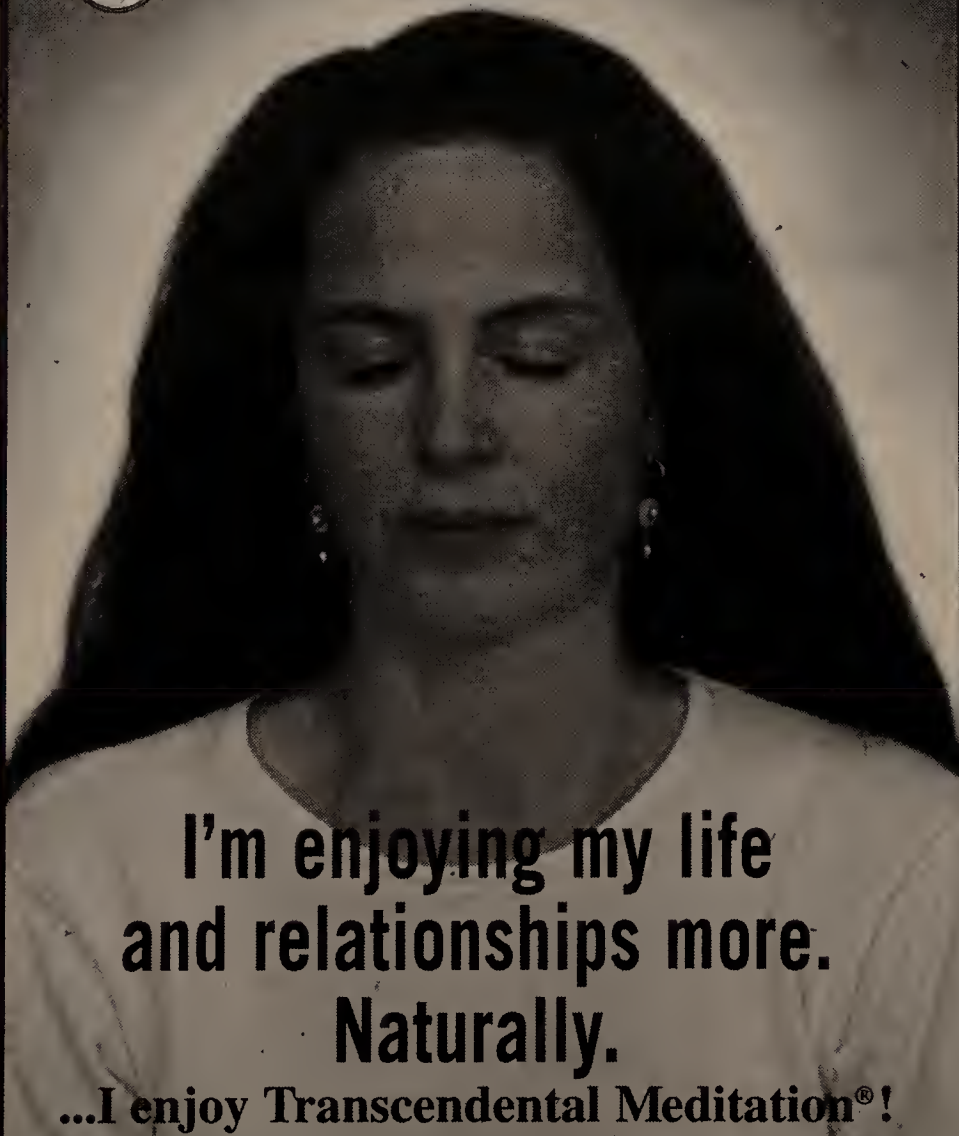


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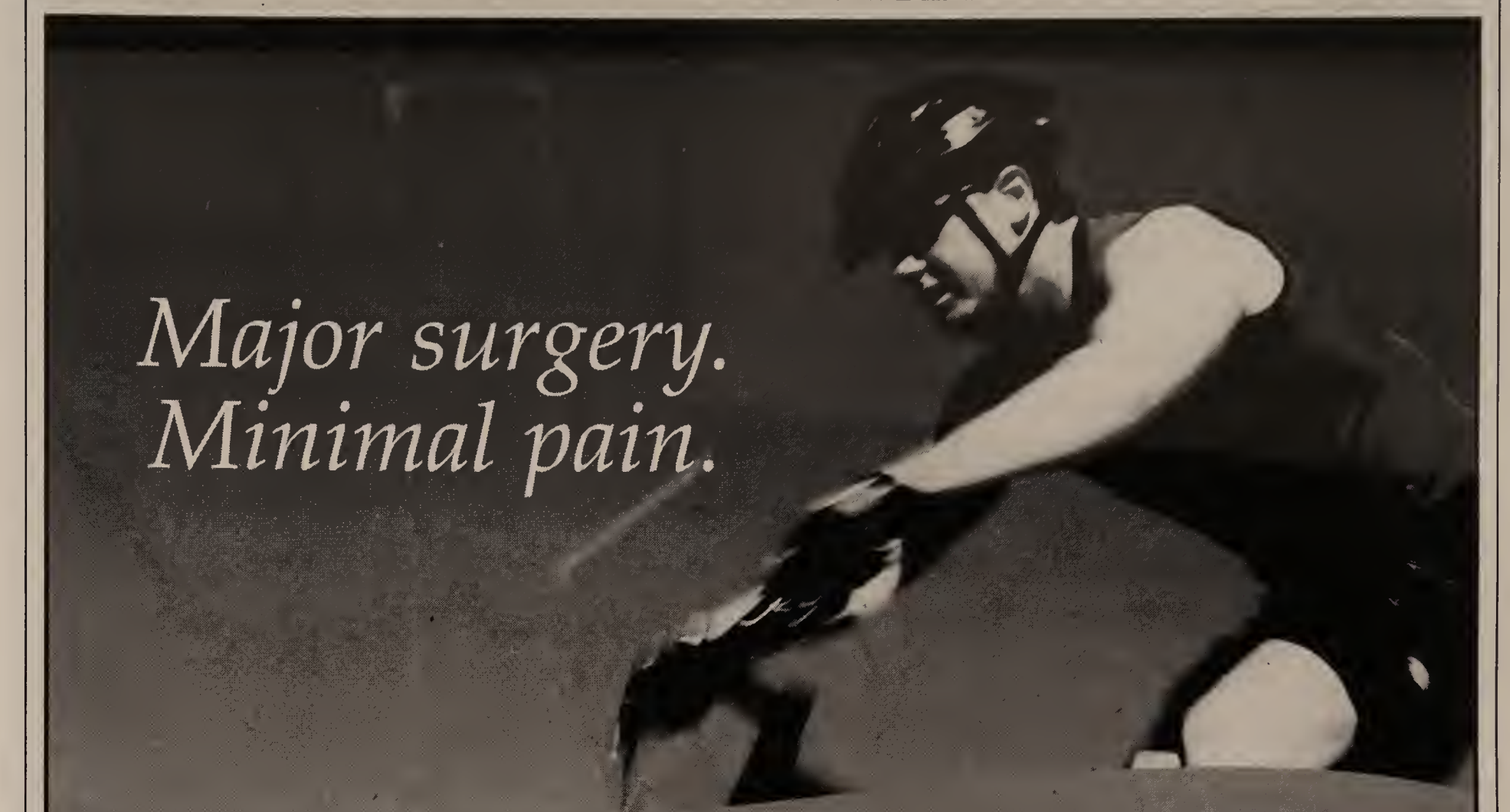
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# THE LAST PAGE

## To Be a Poet in America

◆ POEMS BY A. D. WINANS ◆

### A LOVE POEM

Leaving your home  
Not wanting you to walk  
Me to the car because  
I'm no good at goodbyes  
And you tired and me tired  
And the dog dog tired  
Battling the commuter traffic  
My thoughts on Saturday's play  
And Sunday at the park  
With banjo tunes dancing inside  
My head  
Riding me all the way home  
With you on my mind  
Pushing past hurts aside  
Thinking of the perfect love  
The kind where there is nothing  
Negative to say  
The kind you would repeat  
Over and over again  
To get it down right  
A love so binding  
It sticks to the marrow  
A love so strong there  
Is no yesterday tomorrow  
Just the now  
A love where regrets  
Are a bill that never comes due

### LOVE POEM TWO

Your memory returns to haunt me  
The way you looked at me when  
Undressing for bed  
The way the moonlight peeked  
Through the window shades the  
First time we made love  
Leaving me feeling like a voyeur  
Resting in God's favorite easy-chair

### HAIKU POEM

a microphone inside my head  
static playing mad tunes on my tongue  
a lonely grasshopper without wings

### OCEAN BEACH

Old ghosts stand guard at deserted Playland  
At Ocean Beach  
The fat lady sings no more  
The funhouse torn down  
Like my old high school  
The sand dunes filled with debris  
A lone ship in the distance  
The waves dashing along the shore  
Bring back old memories of old  
San Francisco drowning in quicksand fog banks  
My eyes a piece of dead driftwood floating  
Aimlessly out to sea

### POEM FOR AN IMAGINARY DAUGHTER

Daughter that I never had  
Tugging at my arm-sleeve  
From death's still sleep  
Hanging heavy as an anchor  
Rooted to the tip of my tongue  
Your vision riding high in the  
Retina of my third eye

I toss restlessly in half-sleep  
A tugboat captain throwing  
You a lifeline towing  
You gently through my dreams

### RAIN POEM

the storm  
lets up

the birds  
take flight

neighbor's dog  
shakes water

drops in  
sprinkler fashion

a cavalry  
of children

magically appear  
in rainbow splendor

sun peeks  
from clouds

smell of spring  
in the air

### TO BE A POET IN AMERICA

to be a poet in America  
is to be faceless  
like the Indian on an old  
Buffalo Head nickel  
to be a poet a prophet  
a shaman  
is Boxcar Willie  
riding the rails without  
a guitar  
to be a poet in America  
is to be invisible



Photos by Jack Tipple

### ABOUT A. D. WINANS

**A.D.** Winans, a native San Franciscan, is a poet, writer, and amateur photographer. "I grew up in the Haight-Ashbury when it was a working person's neighborhood," he says. He has lived in Noe Valley on Clipper Street for over 15 years and, approaching 70 years of age, has taken part in some of the great literary traditions of the city. In 1958, after returning from military service in Panama, he began hanging out in North Beach with Beat Generation luminaries like Jack Micheline, Bob Kaufman, Jack Spicer, and Richard Brautigan. "I also know Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and published him in my literary magazine, *Second Coming*, and he has published me in two City Lights anthologies," Winans adds.

Winans' latest book of poems, *This Land Is Not My Land*, was published this year by Presa Press. He has also published a biography of Charles Bukowski, as well as several other poetry collections. Winans says his favorite Noe Valley hangouts are Café XO and Martha & Brothers, the former for its relaxing atmosphere and the latter for its great coffee. No coffeehouse poet, Winans only writes verse when the mood strikes him, "and there can be dry spells of weeks, sometimes months." Last Page readers are fortunate to benefit from one of his fertile periods.

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